

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 28, 2013

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## Free ride for Merry Hill festive shoppers

A FREE shuttle bus service will be ferrying shoppers to the Merry Hill Centre for the second year running in the build-up to Christmas.

It will operate from the nearby Waterfront business park every weekend from this Saturday and also on weekdays, excluding Wednesdays, from December 14. It comes as the centre announced extended Christmas opening hours.

The shuttle bus, which aims to reduce congestion around the shopping centre, proved a success when it was launched for the first time last year.

### Gridlocked

Roads around Merry Hill can become gridlocked due to the large number of people trying to get there and find a parking space.

Merry Hill bosses say the bus service will help to make it easier for people to do their Christmas shopping.

The bus runs from 9am until 8.30pm on Saturdays, 10.30am to 5.30pm on Sundays, and until midnight on selected days to coincide with the centre's later opening hours. Shoppers should follow the Park 'n' Ride signs when they drive in.

Between December 2 and 18, the centre will be open for an extra hour, until 10pm on weekdays and 8pm on Saturdays.

## Affordable homes plan

ALMOST 100 affordable houses will be built in the borough as part of plans for reducing the number of people becoming homeless.

Dudley Council is working with housebuilders to encourage them to develop a range of smaller properties.

Bosses have drawn up proposals for tackling homelessness in the borough.

During 2012/13 there were 2,270 requests for help made to the council from people worried they were at risk of becoming homeless.

But 170 households were accepted as homeless, 12 more than the year before.

# £1.9m REVAMP AT BUS STATION

PLANS for a new bus station at Merry Hill shopping centre have been scrapped but a bus interchange at Cradley Heath will be given a £1.9 million revamp instead.

The interchange, next to Cradley Heath's railway station, will get the overhaul as part of a wider £10m scheme to improve bus transport in the area.

But a planned £3m bus station at Merry Hill has been shelved as it would have been too expensive to build, transport bosses have revealed.

### Shame

Under the approved funding programme headed by the region's transport authority Centro, there will be £1.1million in highway improvements on The Boulevard, including a new link road between the centre and the A4306, and Pedmore Road.

Ward councillor Rachel Harris said: "It is an awful shame.

"It offered a really good opportunity to bring more people into the town centre on public transport.

"It would have helped ease congestion problems in the area.

"We need good bus services in the this area as it is highly reliant on buses. Deciding not to go ahead with the bus station feels very short-sighted."

She added: "It is a signal that the car is more important than anything else."

Council leader David Sparks said: "It is disappointing the bus station will not be going ahead at this time.

"However, it is great news for local residents that there will be a pedestrian crossing

### Report by Alex Ross

across the Pedmore Road to Merry Hill."

As part of the plan announced in July for the Merry Hill bus station, a new building would have been built and the number of serving buses increased by 25 per cent.

Centro will now meet Sandwell Council, bus operators and architects to work out the detail of what commuters at Cradley Heath will see from the work, which is expected to start in the spring and be finished around next Christmas.

Mark Langford, media officer at Centro, said: "When we first won the funding the dream scenario was to do this at Merry Hill, but the more we looked into it the more we realised it wasn't going to be feasible with the available funding.

"So we looked into what else we could do and identified that the bus interchange was a good fall back for us to pursue and develop.

"In many ways that's good because it opens up the interchange, not just for those going to Merry Hill but for other travellers as well."

Other benefits expected to be delivered in the £10m scheme include £3.3m on new buses, £1m of shelter and information improvements on eight key routes into Brierley Hill, and £700,000 towards the Black Country Swift smart card scheme in Dudley.

## Aiming to be top of the world



European Champion kickboxer Simon Akufo, of Rowley Regis, is getting ready to rumble in his bid for title glory

KICKBOXER Simon Akufo is hoping he will be a knock-out for charity when he battles to win the world title next month.

The current European Kickboxing Champion will be going head-to-head with Italian champion Cristian Tronu for the fight next month, in a bid to regain the WKA Welterweight title which he lost last December.

The 32-year-old hopes to raise money for children with Down's Syndrome by gaining sponsorship of the programme for the fight at the Q Club in Birmingham on December 7.

### Training

Simon, who works in sales and lives in Haden Walk, Rowley Regis, said: "At the moment I am training for the world

title and that is the biggest event of the moment in the world for me.

"As part of that event I want to donate some money to children with Down's Syndrome.

"The more money we raise for them the better," he added.

Anyone who would like to sponsor the programme or book tickets should call 07831068772.

## Council in U-turn on children's centre axe

CHILDREN'S centres across Dudley borough will not close after council chiefs made a dramatic U-turn in the wake of fierce opposition.

Council leader David Sparks said that no centres in the borough would shut in the 'foreseeable future'. But opening hours and staffing levels could still be reduced.

The council was considering closing seven of the borough's 20 children's centres to save £2.3 million.

The proposed cuts sparked a wave of protests from parents of youngsters who use the centres, saying they are a vital part of the community.

### Clear

Councillor Sparks said it had been clear from the consultation so far that there was strong opposition to centres closing.

"It's quite clear that there is no support for the closure of children's centres, in fact there is quite the opposite.

"Christmas is coming up and I don't want young mothers worrying about what they are going to do with their children next year.

"We are not going to close children's centres and we are going to have a look at how we might be able to build on their role in the community."

## Earl of Dudley dies, aged 93

THE 4th Earl of Dudley has died at the age of 93.

William Humble David Ward was raised at Himley Hall, near Dudley, before attending Eton and Christ Church, Oxford.

He served on the board at Brierley Hill's Round Oak Steelworks and was also deputy chairman of Baggeridge Brick Company.

He inherited the titles Baron Ward of Birmingham and Earl of Dudley upon the death of his father in 1969.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch said: "Our thoughts are very much with his family."

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## Disability claim woman worked as carer

A WOMAN who claimed she was so disabled she sometimes needed round-the-clock care was actually working as a carer herself.

Despite pocketing almost £28,000 during the course of her benefits scam, she has avoided an immediate jail sentence after a judge gave her credit for admitting her crime.

Tina Potter pleaded guilty to dishonestly claiming £27,982 in disability benefits from the Depart-

ment of Work and Pensions - DWP - at Sandwell Magistrates Court on October 29, despite working as a carer at the Everley Home For The Elderly in Lyde Green, Halesowen.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, said on forms she 'understated her mobility' and 'overstated her care needs'. Potter, aged 50, from Meadow Walk, Cradley Heath, admitted two counts of dishonestly making a false statement to obtain a benefit,

on or about August 6, 2008 and another on or about August 13, 2008.

The claim spanned the period from August 6, 2008 until December 25, 2012. Mr Lee Preston, defending, said Potter had tried to contact the DWP to organise repaying the money but the department wanted to wait for court proceedings.

Passing sentence, District Judge Michael Wheeler said criminals who committed similar frauds could

expect a 24-week jail sentence but he reduced that to give credit to Potter's guilty pleas. He sentenced her to 16 weeks for both charges to run concurrently, but suspended that jail term for 12 months.

He also ordered her to carry out 12 months' supervision and ordered her to complete a specified activity - attending a women's project for 30 days. She must pay a victim surcharge of £80 and costs of £100.

## Girl's parents hope her death helps youngsters

THE parents of a seven-year-old girl who died three days after being discharged from hospital say they hope her 'tragic death' can be used to improve the treatment of children admitted to hospital.

Simran Dhesi was admitted to Sandwell General Hospital after vomiting at her school and complaining of abdominal pain - but following examination Dr Raka Banerjee discharged her and told her mother to take her to her GP if the symptoms persisted.

A day later, the pupil at Devonshire Infant School in Smethwick was examined by Dr Sarinder Kaur at a GP practice in Warley Road in Oldbury. She suspected an infection and told her mother to watch her at home.

The following day, Simran was admitted to hospital and transferred to a paediatric surgery bed at Leicester Royal Infirmary for an urgent surgical examination.

Simran, who had received surgery to repair a hole in her heart the year before, died the next day on September 10, 2010 after going into a cardiac arrest.

At a three-day inquest at Smethwick Coroner's Court, Black Country coroner Rob-in Balmain concluded she died of a rare complication of a congenital heart defect. In a narrative verdict he did not blame the doctors who assessed Simran, saying the opportunity to diagnose and treat her came too late.

Speaking following the hearing, Simran's parents Jatinder and Tarlochan Dhesi paid tribute to their 'beautiful, little daughter'.

Mr Dhesi, aged 41, a coach driver, said: "We hope that at least systems will now be improved in the future as a result of her untimely death which will hopefully result in better treatment for other children who attend for emergency care at hospital."

Representing Birmingham City Hospital, Mr Ben Bentley told the inquest that procedures had been looked at following Simran's death.

Anyone with information should call 101.



Heart defect - Simran Dhesi

## Hit and run death claim

POLICE have said that an elderly man who died after being found injured in the road was probably the victim of a hit and run incident.

The 75-year-old victim who has been named locally as William 'Bill' Fenton, was found in Beakes Road, Smethwick, on Saturday at around 9.30pm with serious injuries and died later in hospital.

Inspector Paul Bennett said: "We have launched a major investigation to determine exactly what led to this elderly man's death. We believe he has been struck by a large vehicle, possibly a 4x4 car or a van. Whoever was driving must have known they had hit a person but rather than stop to help, they left him in the road to die."

Anyone with information should call 101.

## Sign of things to come



Cyrille Regis and Brendon Batson at the unveiling of the sign next to The Hawthorns

ALBION legends Cyrille Regis and Brendon Batson beamed with pride as a new sign was installed heralding the arrival of a statue marking their role in the club's history.

West Bromwich town centre will soon host the Celebration Statue showing striker Regis, defender Batson and fleet-footed winger Laurie Cunningham - who became known as The Three Degrees - cheering together after a goal.

## Trio

The trio rose to fame among The Hawthorns' faithful in the late 1970s.

A sign has now been installed outside the Baggies' home ground in anticipation of the statue's arrival.

It is hoped it will become the second lure for football tourists visiting the town besides The Hawthorns itself.

The brainchild of Black Country businessman Jim Cadman, the plan has been supported by Sandwell Council and the statue will be put up in West Bromwich's New Square next summer.

Mr Cadman said: "I think it reminds people just how important these guys were to the club and to football and their achievements as trailblazers."

The 10ft high statue, which will be placed on a small plinth, will be in the space which connects New Street and The Public with the New Square retail development.

It is expected to be unveiled in the summer next year.

Regis and Batson have spoken of how the statue will be a fitting tribute to Cunningham who died in a car accident.

It is planned to unveil the statue on the 25th anniversary of his death next July.

## Services queries set to be answered

RING and ride services for elderly and disabled people in the West Midlands face being stripped of all their funding under sweeping cuts to public transport.

Centro, which subsidises public transport on behalf of councils, has now launched a consultation on its £14.6 million of proposed cuts. They include stripping free tram and train travel from pensioners and increasing child fares on the buses.

Further details emerged during a meeting of councillors who approved launching the consultation.

Public transport users will be asked whether they would be prepared for free tram and train travel to be removed from pensioners altogether or whether they would support an annual charge for the passes of around £30 or discounted fares.

Consultation sessions are being held from 9am to 3pm on the following dates: Saturday, December 7, at Sloane Street Square, Dudley; Wednesday, December 18, at West Bromwich Bus Station; Saturday, January 11, in Queen Square, Wolverhampton; and Saturday, January 18, in Park Street, Walsall.

## Winter death shock figures

THERE were 31,000 deaths linked to cold weather last winter, including 26,600 among the over-75s.

The number of 'excess winter deaths' in England and Wales rose by 29 per cent compared to the previous year, according to the Office for National Statistics.

In Dudley around 200 people die each year from being too cold.

Dudley Council runs a winter warmth service to help people who are struggling to heat their homes with around 500 households supported last year. But former older person's champion for the borough Councillor Pat Martin said the figures showed more help was desperately needed.

## Booze delivery

A 24-HOUR alcohol delivery store could open under a proposal to be considered by licensing bosses for Sandwell. S and K Sales and Services want to open Drinks 4 Delivery in West Bromwich.

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## Warden's base and housing planned

IT WAS once the site of a 19th century manor house that had been hit by vandals before it was controversially demolished despite a long-running campaign.

Now the former site of Saltwells House in Saltwells Nature Reserve will be used once again under plans for a £300,000 warden's base as well as new homes.

Since the manor house was knocked down three years ago, there have been calls for the site to be available for the community.

### Visitors

Proposals by Selbourne Homes include a single storey warden's HQ which will be used by staff working in the reserve as well as visitors and schoolchildren.

It would be partly funded by Dudley Council, which says it will give Saltwells a facility which can be used by the whole community.

There would also be five four-bedroom houses built on the site while the access road would be improved.

Gavin Warr, managing director of Hagley-based Selbourne Homes, said: "We are building these five houses and that will enable, at the same time, the woodland warden's facility to be built."

"As well as having accommodation for the woodland wardens and management of the site, there will be classrooms for schoolchildren to learn about the woodlands."

The five detached houses would be built in a 'woodland style' designed to fit in with their surroundings.

Dudley Council has agreed to earmark £120,000 from the reserves budget of the council's urban environment directorate for the new base.

## Cinema part of £80m deal

A MULTIPLEX cinema next to the Merry Hill shopping centre has been bought by a property group as part of a £80.6 million deal.

The Odeon Cinema in Brierley Hill is part of a portfolio of 10 out-of-town Odeons acquired by LondonMetric Property from Odeon Property Group. The buildings will continue to be let to Odeon Cinema for nearly 25 years.

Andrew Jones, chief executive of LondonMetric, said: "The transaction offers us long and strong income."

# Tributes as former minister dies, 90



Teacher and minister Ron Mason

FOR more than 50 years, he led congregations at churches in the Black Country, putting 'faith and acts of kindness' at the centre of his ministry.

Tributes have this week been paid to the Rev Ron Mason, of Halesowen, who died just before his 91st birthday.

Mr Mason was pastor at Green Lane Baptist Church in Walsall, leaving in December 2007 after 25 years of service.

He was also pastor at Halesowen Baptist Church, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

The minister was known for his skills in making Welsh love spoons, which he often presented as gifts to couples he married.

Family members said Mr Mason was loved by 'absolutely everybody who knew him'.

Daughter Roxy Harris, aged 56, of Halesowen, said: "He made everybody laugh. He was hardworking and lived for the Lord."

"His faith and acts of kindness were legendary in the way he that he served people and the communities where the churches were based."

### Devoted

"He was a family man, a great dad and great grandad. But he was also devoted to his church family."

"He never wavered from his duty and was even known to carry out roof repairs if required at the church."

"We'll miss him terribly."

Mr Mason grew up in London's East End and as a child he suffered ill health and was

sent to a sanatorium to recover from tuberculosis.

He served in the RAF for three years during the Second World War, which included a stint in India.

Mr Mason taught religious education at Bartley Green Girls Grammar School in Birmingham, where he was head of its middle school.

He also set up a woodworking project for the unemployed during the recession of the 1980s.

Mr Mason, of Blackberry Lane, Halesowen, is also survived, by wife Gwen, aged 85, daughters Phillipa, Roxy and Naomi, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Hundreds of people attended his funeral at Warley Baptist Church.

# Mentally ill in custody issue goes to Commons

AN MP has called for a reform of police powers to deal with people affected by mental health issues after it was revealed that more than 7,500 people are being held in cells rather than in a secure medical unit.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris has secured a debate in the House of Commons today (Thursday) to discuss how police deal with people safeguarded under the mental health act.

by Tom Mason

### Schoolgirl

The debate comes in the wake of the sentencing of Phillip Simelane who was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act after pleading guilty to killing Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

The police briefing into that case identified a range of concerns regarding the failure of various agencies to act after Simelane's mental health problems had been identified.

Mr Morris will speak about the need to reform police powers under section 136 of the Mental Health

Act, which allows police to detain people whose mental health may cause a risk to themselves or to others.

He is calling for a change to the policy so people with mental illness are sent directly to specialist safe units rather than police cells.

The provision was originally introduced into law to allow the police to capture and return people who had absconded from asylums, but it has been revealed that it was used more than 21,000 times in the UK last year to hold people that police had concerns about.

Of those cases, 36 per cent resulted in the person being taken to police cells rather than to a secure medical ward.

## Firms up for national awards

TWO Black Country businesses have won through to the national finals of a manufacturing awards scheme.

Lift and Engineering Services, of Portersfield Road, Cradley Heath, and Caparo Industries, of Popes Lane, Oldbury, won regional prizes in EEF's Midlands Future Manufacturing Awards. They will now take part in the national finals in London in January.

Lift and Engineering Services won the business growth and investing in skills awards while Caparo won the partnership with education award.

Caparo Bridge Aluminium won the environmental efficiency award and Caparo Atlas Fastenings was runner-up in the investing in skills category.

## Club calls for new recruits



Mick Walker, chairman of the bowls club, and Ian Skidmore, chairman of the cricket club, at Coombs Wood club

A LONG-RUNNING sports and social club is celebrating its first anniversary since moving to its new home.

Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club moved into its purpose-built facility, in Stewarts Road, Halesowen, after its previous site in Lodgefield Road was developed for housing.

Officials from the club, founded 92 years ago, said it now had over 900 social members but new players are sought for the cricket and bowls sections.

### Facilities

Cricket club chairman Ian Skidmore said: "We have markedly better facilities at our new site and we are recapturing the character of what made our clubhouse special."

"However, one area where we are falling short is numbers and both the cricket and bowls clubs are welcoming new members with open arms."

To take part call 07780 161040.

## NEWS

### in brief

## Cut price deal to help fitness

PEOPLE are being urged to get fit this Christmas with a special membership offer available at leisure centres in one borough.

The offer by Dudley Council is running until January 10 at the Crystal, Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres. It is also available at the Dell Stadium and is valid for 12 months.

Councillor Stuart Turner, boss for health and wellbeing, said: "This is a fantastic money-saving opportunity. It would make the perfect Christmas gift for anyone who wants to keep fit. Dudley Council wants to encourage our residents to exercise more often and this deal is one of the many ways we're helping."

## Police cash boost for a boxing club

BOXERS will benefit from new equipment funded by a donation from the police.

The club based at Cradley Heath Community Centre on Reddell Hill Road has been handed £800 by Old Hill Police. The money will help pay for new equipment and contribute to the costs of a renting a room.

The money has come thanks to the Police Property Act, which allows the sale of seized and unclaimed items in the possession of the police for more than 12 months.

## Champion is to switch on lights

KICKBOXING champion Simon Akufu will be turning on the Christmas lights at a church on Saturday.

The event will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on November 30 from 3pm.

The Halesowen athlete, who is the current European Kickboxing Champion, will switch on the lights at 5pm.

## Coffee concert at parish church

HALESOWEN Parish Church are holding their Christmas Coffee Concert on Saturday, December 14, at 10.15am including music, poems and readings all with seasonal flavour. Admission is free.

## Library closures

ALL libraries across Dudley borough will close for one day to allow for staff training next week.

The libraries will be closing on Wednesday, December 4.

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## NEWS

THE BEST  
OF PETER  
RHODES

IT IS reported that theft from shops in the UK now costs us £3,400 million a year, or about £124 per household. It is a colossal sum but what did the politicians expect when they effectively decriminalised shoplifting? Gone are the days when shoplifters were hauled before the courts to have their dishonesty dissected in public and their convictions printed in the local newspaper. Oh, the shame. These days a first-time shoplifter (and they always claim it's their first time) caught nicking items worth less than £100 is issued with a PND, a Penalty Notice of Disorder which is little more than a fixed-penalty fine. Pay £80 and you'll hear no more about it. This is probably the biggest bargain in the supermarket. If you go shoplifting a dozen times before you get caught and then get stung for £80, you're well into profit. Is it any wonder that thousands of people no longer regard shoplifting as a crime and look slightly puzzled if you suggest, heaven forbid, they should be ashamed of themselves?

□□□□□□□□

FOR a snapshot of modern attitudes to theft from stores, have a look at that great national barometer, the Sky News website where one contributor thunders: "The only answer to this problem is to FIGHT for a DECENT WAGE." Actually, there is another answer. Try leading a decent, honest life and keeping your sticky fingers off other people's property.

□□□□□□□□

IT emerged this week that we are heading for the most debt-ridden Christmas of all time. Total UK personal debt stands at £1.43 trillion or if you prefer, £1,430,000,000,000. Average debt per British household is now £54,000, double the level of a decade ago. And just when you're thinking of doing something really desperate (like paying off some of your debts), along comes a couple of new credit cards, announced this week, which don't charge any interest for the first 15 months. Just think of the debt you can rack up before things turn nasty. Just what we need – the lead lifejacket.

□□□□□□□□

BIG row in Walsall over the council's decision to blow £50,000 on a new Jaguar as the mayoral limousine. A senior councillor says: "We feel it's important to retain the significance of the mayor's role. The mayor goes back to the 1200s. The mayor is the Queen's representative in the borough." Which sounds terribly impressive until you recall that the role of the Pope goes back 2,000 years and he is God's representative on earth. While the Mayor of Walsall rolls up in a £50,000 Jag, Pope Francis uses a Ford Focus.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Five teenagers are held as police probe racist attacks

**FIVE teenagers have been arrested as police probe a series of terrifying racially-motivated attacks.**

An investigation was launched last month when two men, aged 68 and 70, were kicked and punched in separate attacks by a group of teenagers in Cradley Heath.

by Adam Grinsell

In October another assault, near to Plant Street mosque, was reported when an eight-year-old boy was slapped.

On October 20 a 52-year-old man was sitting in his Toyota car on Redhall Hill Road when the group of teenagers surrounded the car and kicked it, causing damage to the car.

## Suspicion

Five teenagers aged 15, 17, 18 and two aged 16 have been arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated assault and criminal damage.

They have now been bailed by police with a strict curfew, which prevents them from being outdoors from 6.30pm to 7am daily. They are also barred from visiting Plant Street and Bearmore Park playing fields.

Officers continue to investigate and the five have been ordered to return from bail to a police station in December.

Chief Inspector Jane Parry, from Sandwell police station, said: "This type of

behaviour is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our area.

"We pride ourselves on the close working relationship we have with our local community and will always seek to prosecute people who commit crimes of this nature. Officers have been working closely with the local mosque and continue to offer reassurance to local residents.

"I would appeal to anyone who may have witnessed the crimes or may have any information that could help our investigation to come forward. Since the arrests we have not had any further reports of this kind and would like to thank the local community for their continuing help and support."

Officers from the Cradley Heath and Old Hill neighbourhood policing team regularly hold public meetings at Plant Street mosque, with the next taking place tomorrow (Friday) from 1.15pm, where any worried residents can raise their concerns.

## Tiger talk to help Joao settle



Sumatran tiger, Joao, aged 20 months, settles in at Dudley Zoo watched by assistant curator Richard Brown

THE latest arrival at Dudley Zoo is settling into his new surroundings. Keepers are spending time with young Sumatran tiger, Joao, as they help him get used to his enclosure and introduce him to potential mate Daseep.

He brings with him hopes of a new generation of big cats as Joao is part of a major international conservation programme for the critically endangered species.

Assistant curator Richard Brown said: "Joao is still set-

tling into his new surroundings in the internal dens and we are monitoring his behaviour daily.

"Big cat staff are now working hard to build a bond with him by spending as much time as possible sitting and talking to him.

"We hope visitors will bear with him until he's ready to explore the outside, which we expect to be sometime in the coming weeks."

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## Drivers net a fair sum for young patients

TAXI drivers stepped out of their cabs to find the net for charity as they played a fundraising football tournament.

Members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association organised the event and drivers from five firms across the borough took part.

The grand total raised was £1,130.75, which has been donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Association chairman Shaz Saleem, aged 27, presented the cheque to Katie West from the hospital last week.

"It is great, our target was £500," he said. "We wanted to do more and give something back to the community."

"We want to make this an annual event now," he added.

Mr Saleem's son Shazad was treated at the children's hospital when he was younger.

Firms taking part were Beacon Taxis of Sedgley, Fastline Taxis of Kingswinford, Halesowen-based Express Taxis, Elite Taxis of Lye, 5 Star from Dudley and Falcon Taxis from Stourbridge. Elite Taxis beat Fastline 1-0 in the final.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, was guest of honour. He said: "It's great to see businesses in the community coming together to raise money for charity."

# Earthquakes and blazes were part of Rudy's career

**FROM digging a child out from rubble in earthquake-hit Haiti, to fighting one of the West Midlands' biggest blazes earlier this year, Rudy Parkes has had a remarkable career.**

As a member of West Midlands Fire Service he has attended countless fires, car crashes and was even on shift on the night of the 1985 Handsworth riots and this year's inferno in Smethwick sparked by a Chinese lantern.

Now after three decades of service Rudy has retired. During his career the veteran firefighter, who ended his service as watch commander at Cradley Heath, has not only saved lives in the Midlands but has also visited some of the poorest parts of the world to help build schools and community facilities.

### Rescue

He has led more than 50 missions to Romania and six to Tanzania. This was alongside his firefighter duties and his role in the International Search and Rescue squad which has included working in earthquake-hit Japan and Haiti.

It was in Haiti in 2010 that he was part of a team that carried out his most memorable rescue, said Rudy, who is married to Clare, 40, and father of 10-year-old William.

"We were actually searching a supermarket, there were about 40 of us rescuers and it was around lunchtime. A young lad came running up to me and grabbed hold of my arm," said Rudy, who lives in Wollaston.

"Me and (fellow rescuer) Dean Harris said we would go and investigate. We walked down the road, about 500 yards, and there was a school that had collapsed. As soon as I got onto the rubble I could hear a little girl



Rudy with two-year-old Mia who he helped rescue in quake-hit Haiti and her mother

crying 'Mummy'." That little girl was two-year-old Mia, and West Midlands colleagues, as well as those from Wales and Manchester, rushed to help. Mia had been trapped under a concrete slab beneath the rubble for three days and three nights. Crews used their bare hands to free the toddler.

Rudy added: "As she came out, her little face was dirty. She went straight to her mother. You have got a job to do and you have to stay focused and each person in that team was part of that rescue, it was probably the best one I've been involved in."

Rudy's fundraising efforts have ranged from flying to Ecuador in February 2009 to raise money for the Bobby Moore Fund cancer charity - of which Rudy is project manager - with Express & Star columnist Carl Chinn and his colleague Andy Grosvenor, to a 120-mile canoe trip down the River Severn to raise money for an orphanage in Tanzania.

He also helped to construct a physiotherapy unit at the Salvation Army's Matumi orphanage in Dar Es Salaam.

Other exploits have included helping to



Receiving his MBE with wife Clare and son William

build an extension to a school in Alto Paraíso, a remote village in Brazil, in 2010.

In March the next year, he also joined the ISAR squad helping to find the survivors of the earthquake in Japan.

The 53-year-old received an MBE from the Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace in May 2012 for his charity work at home and abroad.

He said: "I've loved every minute, I've got no regrets and I've loved going to work every day and every night."

## NEWS in brief

### Children's toys appeal launched

AN APPEAL has been launched for toys to help disadvantaged children this Christmas. More than 6,000 children in Dudley borough were helped by the scheme last year.

The 2012 toy appeal was the most successful in its 20-year history with 6,082 children in the borough receiving a gift or taken to a pantomime.

Dudley Council for Voluntary Service is seeking unused toys, games, books, DVDs and selection boxes for children aged up to 16.

Co-ordinator Eileen Fielding said: "There are over 15,000 children in Dudley who live in households with income below the poverty line."

"For some children the gift they receive from our toy appeal is the only toy they will receive."

Call Eileen on 01384 573381 or email eileenfielding@dudleycvs.org.uk

### Lantern parade at lights event

A LANTERN parade will kick off Oldbury's Christmas lights switch-on today (Thursday). The free event will take place from 4pm to 7pm.

Children from Tividale Children's Centre and Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy have made lanterns for the parade, which will also feature dhul drummers. The parade will start at 5.30pm in Birmingham Road. Santa switches on the lights at 6pm at Oldbury Civic Square.

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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

SOME years ago, my car was vandalised. It had been keyed from front to back, with several deep scratches across four different panels. Pretty conclusive evidence of a crime, wouldn't you say? Not according to the police officer who attended.

"So what makes you think it was deliberate?" he asked.

Of course. Somebody walking past, maybe on their way to a charity auction or something, just happens to have a sharp implement in their hand, and accidentally gouges a 16ft stretch of paintwork. Happens all the time.

Last week former West Midlands Police chief inspector Rodger Patrick told a committee of MPs about how police officers used such quaintly-named techniques as 'cuffing', 'nodding', 'skewing' and 'stitching' to make crime figures look better.

'Cuffing' could potentially involve recording thefts as 'lost property', burglaries as 'theft from property', and attempted burglaries as 'criminal damage', he explained. As opposed to the good old days, when it was a way of dealing with young miscreants. And that made the crime figures look better too.

IT IS great to hear that Black Country discount chain Poundland is to be floated on the Stock Exchange, but one small question. What will the share price will be?

CONGRATULATIONS on Kingston-upon-Hull being voted UK City of Culture in 2017.

Now I must confess ignorance, in the sense that it is a place I have never visited. But I'm in no doubt that it is a very pleasant place, and I know enough people who originate from that neck of the woods to know it would be very unwise to ever suggest anything else. But it does beg the question of how our ruling classes define culture, and what sort of attributes they seek.

The UK City of Culture panel was headed by television producer Phil Redmond, best known for making Grange Hill and Brookside, and the other main contenders for the title included Leicester, Dundee and Swansea.

Again, very nice cities, no doubt, but it doesn't take a mastermind to imagine the type of culture they were looking for. I can imagine buzz words like 'cutting edge', 'vibrancy' and 'diversity' being used pretty liberally during the judging process.

So Worcester, which gave the world Edward Elgar, Stratford-upon-Avon, the home of William Shakespeare, and Portsmouth, the birthplace of Charles Dickens, are all overlooked, and instead the accolade goes to the city which brought us John Prescott. Brilliant.



Before Karl was injured in Iraq



Karl during one of his charity events



Big challenge - heading to Everest



Karl is in Bryan Adams' new book

# Scars only skin deep as Karl bares his soul

**LISA WRIGHT reports on Black Country hero Karl Hinett who has teamed up with Bryan Adams with some remarkable results**

**The word tattooed across his stomach speaks volumes about war hero Karl Hinett.**

Although Karl was so badly injured in Iraq that he had to learn to walk again, the word 'unscarred' is emblazoned on his torso as a reminder of his determination to overcome his wounds.

It is a simple, powerful word summing up the spirit of a man who has gone on to run countless marathons in aid of charity, now candidly displayed framed by his shocking scars in a new book by rock star Bryan Adams.

Karl, formerly of Tipton and who now lives in Dudley, was invited by Adams to strip off to be part of an collection of striking portraits of injured soldiers called Bryan Adams Exposed in Dusseldorf.

And now the singer has launched a book featuring more images called Wounded: The Legacy of War.

As a private with the Staffordshire Regiment, Karl, 26, suffered severe burns to his hands, legs, arms and face in the bombing in 2005 in Iraq.

## Challenges

His injuries were so bad he had to painstakingly learn to walk again.

But he battled back to compete in dozens of gruelling challenges to raise money for the hospital that treated him, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Around two years ago he was approached by the Canadian to pose in the pictures.

He said: "I have to admit it was quite an unusual email I got from him, but as I read the details I realised I wanted to take part. He wanted to capture images



The word unscarred is tattooed across war hero Karl Hinett's stomach

of soldiers after war, and it was a really interesting and exciting project to be part of." He spent most of the morning with the star at his studio, and even had breakfast with him.

He said: "He is a really genuine and down to earth guy, and really very accommodating, making me feel welcome. It was very relaxed, and he was very clear about what he wanted."

Karl posed topless for the star putting his burnt and badly scarred skin on full display, as well as his distinctive tattoos. He added: "He is

known mostly for his music, but he is a really very good photographer and was very professional."

Karl was photographed individually but was one of 25 injured soldiers to take part in the project.

He said: "Looking back it was quite a bizarre experience being photographed by Bryan Adams, but I am really pleased I did it."

"It was a bit odd posing, but he kept it quite relaxed and put me at ease."

Karl has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity during his

mammoth fundraising efforts, running 100 marathons in two years in aid of the hospital charity.

On New Year's Day 2011 he started a marathon challenge to raise cash for Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where he was nursed back to health.

He finished the last gruelling 26.2 mile run in Liverpool on New Year's Eve last year.

Meanwhile, he has also announced he will be returning to Iraq in an epic challenge to mark the 10th anniversary of when he was horrifically injured in the country.

The soldier will be taking on a 5,000km running challenge called 'Back 2 Iraq 2015' in two years time, which will see him run across Europe, Turkey and back to the Middle East.

## Collection

Money will be split between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity and Walking With The Wounded. Karl said the idea was formed with fellow participant Jules Roberts, 29.

They plan to run around a marathon a day, starting in England, making their way through France, Germany, Prague, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey and then on to Iraq.

The book was launched earlier this month and is a collection of photographs and first person accounts from servicemen and women who have cheated death whilst serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The photography for the book was taken by Bryan Adams and the words were edited by ITN journalist Caroline Froggatt who first approached Bryan with the idea to do something to help wounded soldiers in 2008. The book has taken five years to make and includes more than 100 photographs of 40 wounded servicemen.

It is published by German publishers Steidl and cost £50.

Proceeds from the book will go to the services charities BLESMA, Blind Veterans UK, Combat Stress, SSAFA and War Child.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

## 1983...

A COUNCIL announced it would be taking a softer stance on prosecutions for breaches of Sunday trading laws. Wolverhampton Council had previously had a policy of rigidly enforcing laws banning businesses from opening on the Sabbath.

THE Express & Star carried an aerial shot of the new M54 motorway link to Telford, which was due to be opened by Transport Secretary Nicholas Ridley. In an article Mr Ridley wrote: "Although the M54 has in the past understandably attracted some controversy and objections from environmentalists, I believe the advantages and far outweigh the disadvantages."

WOOLWORTH'S chairman John Beckett defended his company's decision to prosecute a 77-year-old shoplifter, despite being castigated by a judge. Walsall-born Mr Beckett, a former pupil of Wolverhampton Grammar School, said a shoplifter's age should not be taken into account unless they were ill or confused.

## 1993...

IT WAS announced that the last remaining coal pit in Staffordshire was to close before Christmas, throwing 600 miners out of work. Workers at Littleton Colliery, near Cannock, were told by bosses at British Coal that the pit would close on December 10.

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Ken Clarke cut the rate of borrowing by 0.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, sparking measures that he was trying to stimulate consumer spending ahead of a tax rise.

WOLVES fans were furious when they arrived at Luton to discover that the match had been cancelled off. The First Division tie at Kenilworth Road had been cancelled just three hours before kick-off.

## 2003...

ENGLAND were celebrating their most famous sporting victory since 1966 after lifting the Rugby World Cup. Prolific scorer Jonny Wilkinson grabbed the glory with a dramatic last-minute extra time winner.

A CHURCH sparked a fury by removing all silk flower arrangements from graves in its yard. Furious relatives blasted Rev David Vastergaard's decision to enforce the strict rules at Holy Trinity Church in Heath Town, Wolverhampton, without warning. Around 100 people signed a petition opposing the controversial move. Mr Vastergaard apologised for any anguish caused by the ban, but said artificial flowers quickly looked shabby and dirty, and could also damage mowing and strimming equipment.

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## LETTERS

# 'We want our town back'

I WOULD like to thank the people who attended the first public meeting by the Dudley Regeneration Group on Sunday (November 17) at the Station Hotel.

What came out of the meeting was that we believe the town's best days are not behind it and we believe people power can change our leaders' current negative view of the town and actually let it compete in the real world again.

While places like Stourbridge and Halesowen have prospered with continuing regeneration, Dudley has been left to die a slow degeneration as bit by bit services shops have been taken away.

You mention Dudley to any council-

lor and all he will say is that Merry Hill killed the town. We believe that is a copout and just an excuse not to spend money on the town. Our elected leaders need to take responsibility. If you drive in there is not even a sign saying welcome to Dudley town centre anymore.

We believe Dudley is a unique town and needs to play to its strengths and tradition of being the heart of the Black Country. People still use the town centre in big numbers and yet the council have ignored it in favour of Brierley Hill, which has no historical significance - only a BIG shopping centre.

We can write all day about what the council has not done but it's what they need to do to help new business back into the town and give the town a long term future that matters - and not as a backwater of Brierley Hill. We say to Dudley MBC, we want our town back!

The Dudley Regeneration Group is a non-political organisation, a campaign-lobby group.

If you want to join our fight for a better deal for our town email Dudley towngroup@yahoo.co.uk.

STEVE BRISCOE  
Dudley Regeneration Group

## Charges for travel

PROPOSALS to save money by removing free travel for OAPs on trams and trains are overzealous.

The need to save money is not disputed but Centro could make lots of savings without resorting to penalising the poorest in society.

For example, they could raise adult fares to say £2.20. That would cover their shortfall.

Or they could charge pensioners say 20p a journey on all buses, trains and trams. No hardship whatsoever for the pensioner and their ability to use trains and trams safeguarded.

Or else perhaps charge £20 a year to add Metro and train services to the OAP pass.

There is no need whatsoever for a sweeping withdrawal of services and let us not forget that National Express, who run 80 percent of our public transport services, are making huge profits (£117m last year). Perhaps they could assist?

E SHAW  
Dudley

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

## Car wash concerns

RECENTLY I've noticed an increase in car wash sites. They seem to be popping up all over the place. Many of them seem very quickly set up, almost temporary in nature whilst others look professional and in it for the long haul.

It made me wonder, does anyone check the site water connections? Are they paying business rates/metered rates? Are they regulated? How do they discharge safely all their waste water taking into account current environmental legislation and guidelines?

We have environmental guidelines and regulations are in place to cover vehicle washing and operational needs relating to water use and safe release of waste water containing chemicals used in the process. Is anyone checking this kind of site to see if these guidelines/laws are being adhered to?

Also, water companies charge residential customers for the privilege of a water supply, to use and discharge to sewers, etc. These businesses use vast quantities of water daily, so are they checking who is using their water in high volumes daily and ensuring they are paying?

Why do they propose such a good business option (is it because none of the above apply?). Are they a long term bet option for the environment; water rates and even maybe the taxman?

L HANDLEY  
Brierley Hill

## Council wage bill

WHAT a week of headlines regarding Dudley. First we hear that our council are considering buying private properties to fill the council housing gap, then we hear that due to a shortage of money they are planning on closing childrens centres and care homes.

At no point have I read any comment about cutting councillors' allowances or the huge wage bill of council executives and managers.

The truth is that this Labour-Tory shambles in our council house have no idea of what they are doing and the time has come for the people of Dudley to hold them to account.

UKIP is fighting the care home and childrens centre closures and demanding a full review into the working practices and costs of the council.

Please help us to fight for services for the young and vulnerable as well as forcing some sanity on our council

BILL ETHERIDGE  
UKIP Dudley & Halesowen Chairman

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**CLUB NEWS**

Tina has calming influence

**WOMBOURNE WI**

OUR SPEAKER and demonstrator for the evening was Tina Lloyd.

She told us that she had trained in ballet and contemporary dance in London and also enjoyed Tai Chi.

On returning to the Midlands, she decided to take a course to enable her to teach the latter to the over 50s. Eventually she included Tai Chi for the disabled and now some of her work is in care homes.

Tina informed us that Tai Chi improves balance and co-ordination, helps to reduce blood pressure and has many other benefits. After a demonstration, we were invited to join her, some standing, and some sitting.

Tina took us through each part, slowly and carefully. Eventually we put all the parts together to complete a whole routine.

Tina explained that Tai Chi is something that, as one ages, one can improve upon and reminded us of pictures of elderly Chinese using Tai Chi in public places to wake the body first thing in the morning and aid sleep when performed in the evening.

The ladies in the room certainly enjoyed the movements and felt very relaxed afterwards. We were then told of meridians in the body which are acupuncture points. To aid sleep, squeeze the flesh between thumb and forefinger for example.

Finding out the best to eat is a real treat

**SHIFNAL TG**

BRUSSELS sprouts, broccoli, spinach, mackerel, oats! Healthy eating, with these five items high on the list, was the topic of the evening for Shifnal Townswomen's Guild members at their November meeting, when Nina Geraghty spoke on 'Diet and Nutrition'.

Even those who already knew much on the subject had their knowledge enlarged and their ideas revised as Nina embarked on a fascinating stream of information about the contents and uses of various foods.

Stressing always the value of using fresh, preferably local, produce, Nina proved to be an extremely interesting and entertaining speaker, always ready to share a joke, to provide helpful tips and to respond to questions. Her talk was



Speaker Nina Geraghty, left, with group member and quiz winner, Margaret Johnson

backed up by a short quiz, with prizes, which she had brought along, and by some delicious samples of her cooking - which were very warmly received!

Much business was also covered in the meeting. There was a great deal of information from Federa-

tion to cover. Members now look forward to a number of festive events: Federation and National Carol Services, St Andrew's Church Christmas Tree Festival, a Guild Christmas Party and, first, on November 29, Shifnal's Christmas Lights Switch-On.

**Countdown to Christmas****GRANGE E TWG**

Stourbridge on December 14 and that programmes were now available at a cost of 50p to include tea and mince pies in the Church Hall after the service.

Programmes will also be available to purchase at the Church on the day. Marlene O'Hanlon thanked everyone for filling the shoe boxes for charity and these would be taken to a collection point for distribution. Jackie Hill

then gave members an evening of fun and games including a Beetle drive, bingo and a quiz. Prizes were awarded to the winning members and Jackie was given a vote of thanks for organising the evening. The raffle was then drawn with several members winning a prize.

There will be no speaker at the next meeting on December 3 due to the Guild Christmas party but entertainment has been arranged.

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## NEWS

# Graffiti vandal scrawled tags on coach in traffic



Suspended sentence for vandal Creagan Piesley

**STUNNED** passengers caught up in a traffic jam looked on in dismay as a brazen graffiti vandal daubed their coach with 'tags'.

Prolific graffiti scrawler Creagan Piesley got out his marker pen and spray paint to deface the vehicle as it crawled along Worcester Street, Stourbridge, in heavy traffic.

As members of the public also reported fresh graffiti on the walls of the nearby New Road subway, leading to Market Street, police officers gave chase on foot.

And they soon caught up with 20-year-old Piesley, who was already under a Crasbo - Criminal Antisocial Behaviour Order.

This banned him from carrying 'graffiti tools' in public.

At the time he was arrested, Piesley, of Hedgefield Grove, Colley Gate, was also already accused of daubing graffiti on door shutters at an architectural shop in Long Lane, Halesowen.

## Damage

When he appeared before Dudley magistrates on Friday he admitted charges of criminal damage to the coach in Stourbridge on October 4 and to the shop called Inspired in Long Lane, Halesowen, on August 31.

He also admitted two charges of breaching a two-year Crasbo, which was imposed on him in November 2011 for shoplifting and criminal damage.

He had originally denied

the latest offences but changed his plea.

Dudley magistrates gave him a five-month detention sentence, suspended for two years, warning him that if he did not stop daubing graffiti he would end up in prison.

He was also handed a new, two-year Crasbo, banning him from carrying marker pens, spray paint or shoe polish, and ordered to carry out 100 hours of unpaid community work.

Dudley South Police Inspector Dez Lambert said much of Piesley's 'community payback' would be spent scrubbing graffiti from property in Halesowen and Stourbridge.

It is also plain that Piesley was certainly no Banksy, the celebrated graffiti artist.

Insp Lambert said: "We're not talking about creative, aesthetically-appealing artwork. This is criminal damage, which is upsetting residents and leaving them with hefty repair bills."

"Piesley's was the latest in a series of graffiti attacks that the council estimates has cost them £6,000 on top of all the damage to private property."

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## MEMORY LANE

# Birthday milestone and it's in triplicate

**WHEN Mary Haden gave birth back in 1943, she couldn't believe her eyes.**

She had been told to expect twins, and sure enough Dr Donald Cunningham, of Dudley's Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home, delivered two bouncing baby boys. But something told Dr Cunningham that his work was not yet done.

"I was the surprise package," jokes David Haden, who is by 20 minutes the youngest of the three brothers.

The trio, David, Derek and Don celebrate their 70th birthdays on Sunday.

For much of their childhood, the Lower Gornal triplets enjoyed minor celebrity status, with many landmark moments in their lives being recorded in The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

"We got a lot of attention when we were growing up," recalls Derek. "There was always a lot of interest in birthdays and anniversaries."

## Newsagents

From an early age, the youngsters were steeped in the family tradition of being newsagents, with David and Don both going on to keep shops of their own.

"Until we were around 14, we lived in a little two-bedroomed house at the back of the shop, with three of us to a bed," adds Derek. "There were six of us living there."

"As well as my parents, there was my uncle who never married, he had been a prisoner of war, and we only had one downstairs room because the front room had been turned into the shop. We never had any indoor washing facilities until we moved."

Mother Mary, whose maiden name had been Jones, kept the shop, Jones News, which she had inherited from her family, and was helped by husband Wilfred, who also worked as a builder.

From an early age the youngsters



**Triplets parents Mary and Wilf Haden** found themselves working in the shop and delivering papers. They went to Red Hall infants and junior schools in Lower Gornal. After passing his 11-plus, Don went to Brierley Hill Grammar School, while Derek and David went to Robert Street School, near the shop.

Jones News was sold to the Stars News chain in the late 1960s and at the age of 25 David set up his own shop in Central Drive, Lower Gornal, in 1968. Don initially chose a different career path, studying electrical engineering at Aston University before joining the MEB. When David decided to open a new shop, Haden's News in Dudley Street, Sedgley, in 1972, Don decided to follow in his footsteps by buying the Gornal shop from him.

"I sometimes used to help out in David's shop when he was on holiday, and it used to confuse a few of the customers when they came in and didn't realise it wasn't David," says Don.

Although Derek, who lives in Askew Bridge Road, Lower Gornal, has also helped out at the family's shops, he was



**Newborns in arms of mother Mary** never tempted to go into the business himself, instead opting for the craftsman's life, making decorative tiled fireplaces for S & W in Himley Road. David, of Richmond Gardens, Wombourne, retired in 2002, but he still regularly returns to his old shop.

David, who celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary to wife Jennifer in March, has two sons, Matthew, 39, is a police officer, while Philip, 36, is a financial consultant.

Derek, who married Jacqueline in 1970, himself has twin sons - 40-year-olds Mark, who works in sales, and Tesco manager Richard. He also has a 37-year-old daughter Sarah, who works as a secretary for the British Nordic Ski Squad. He retired from his work eight years ago, and spends much of his free time with his four grandchildren.

Don, who married in 1967, has two children, Nick, 39, a neurosurgeon, and Nina, 35, a paediatric nurse.

The triplets, families and friends celebrate their birthday with a celebration meal.



Triplets, from left, Don, Derek, and David Haden were celebrating their 70th birthday on Sunday, November 14, and below the triplets in matching outfits are pictured when they were aged about three



**Urgent care in Dudley could be changing**

**We want your views!**

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**Saturday 30th November**  
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**Thursday 12th December**  
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**Thursday 12th December**  
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**Tuesday 17th December**  
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If you can't make it to one of these meetings, don't worry - there are other ways for you to find out more and have your say. Please see our website at [www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care](http://www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk/urgent-care) for more information, or ring us on 01384 322777.

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- Investing extra money in family doctor services to make it easier for people to get a GP appointment.
- Making sure that all urgent care services work together more effectively for patients - including GP services at evenings and weekends and the 111 telephone helpline.



## NEWS

# Lucky to be alive after car smashes into flat



The car is wedged inside the flat, pictures from West Midlands Fire Service

A CAR careered off the road and ploughed through the wall of a flat, narrowly missing a resident who was inside his lounge watching TV.

Factory worker Mamadou Diallo, aged 34, described hearing a loud bang and seeing a 'silver shape' pass in front of his eyes moments before he was covered in dust and rubble.

The silver Volkswagen Golf came crashing into his ground floor flat, on Maughan Street in Dudley.

Mr Diallo, who escaped without injury, fears he could have died had he

not made a change to his typical evening routine. He had been relaxing watching music videos when the car smashed through his living room.

## Settee

"I usually lie down on the settee, but my back has been hurting so I decided to lie on the floor. The car smashed through the wall straight into the settee, so if I had been on there I would probably be a dead man now."

Mr Diallo crawled out of a gap in the wall next to the car.

"When I looked back in the room it was in bits. Everything was smashed to pieces, the TV, the settee, everything was crushed up against the back wall."



Mamadou Diallo surveys the damage

"The driver had fallen out of the car and was lying in the rubble. I went back in and tried to help him. I think he was disabled because his false leg was lying on the floor in the all the mess. Six families living in the three-storey block were evacuated while structural engineers assessed the building."

Mr Diallo, who works at Newbrel in Halesowen, said he has been in the UK for around 10 years since moving from Guinea. He is due to become a naturalised British citizen next week. "I was looking forward to it a lot but now I don't have a place to live," he added.

The driver of the car was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving and has been bailed by police.

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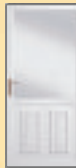
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## NEWS

# King of Pop auction is a thriller



Off the wall – Danny Morrison models one of Michael Jackson's iconic fedora hats, which sold for £3,200 at auction

**DEVOTED fans of pop star Michael Jackson splashed out almost £34,000 to get their hands on a piece of music history.**

Precious artefacts including signed hats as well as CDs and records collected by one of the King of Pop's closest friends went under the hammer.

And bids for the 17 items in the lot up for sale at Stourbridge-based Fieldings Auctioneers in Mill Race Lane came flooding in from across the globe. Director Will Farmer said: "It's

amazing to get hold of such rare items relating to one of the world's biggest pop stars.

"We have had such a lot of interest from collectors all over the world."

### Fedora

A black fedora hat worn by Michael Jackson on stage while performing Billie Jean sold for £3,200.

The star lot on the day was a unique framed first print run version of the invitation for the 'Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration' concert. The collector's item, which was signed twice by Jackson and fea-

tures both old and young photographs of the world-famous singer, was snapped up by a buyer in Los Angeles for a cool £5,600. It was a gift from Jackson to a close friend, music producer and celebrity David Gest.

Mr Farmer and his colleagues pulled the lots together over the past five months and when Gest heard about the sale he contacted the auctioneers to volunteer some items from his own collection.

Mr Farmer added: "David had heard through friends of friends that we were working on this auction. Some of the merchandise is phenomenal."



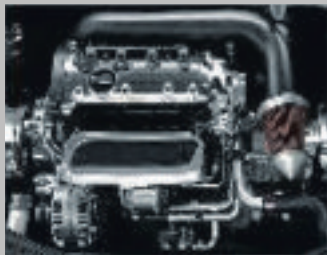
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## NEWS

# Team work was key to enjoying firefighting



Firefighter Mick Jeavons says goodbye to his colleagues after 30 years a firefighter



Camaraderie - Reg Davies

**THEY have clocked up more than half a century of service between them and battled thousands of blazes across the region.**

And now two West Midlands Fire Service firefighters have said goodbye to the brigade on their retirement, after living 'every boy's dream' for a generation.

Mick Jeavons, based at Dudley fire station, and Reg Davies from Brierley Hill, have worked for the brigade for 30 years and 22 years respectively and both said the camaraderie of the team was what made them love the job.

Dudley-born Mr Jeavons, 54, joined the fire service in November 1983.

He said: "It was just a great career and every boy's dream to ride on the fire engine. It was always something I had wanted to be."

## Watch

After training in Coventry, the former Holly Hall School pupil was posted to Halesowen where he worked for five years.

He then transferred to Dudley's former station in Tower Street, before the current station opened in Burton Road, where he has been with Green Watch for 25 years.

The father-of-three described

working in the fire brigade as 'the best job in the world'.

Reg Davies, aged 53, from Wolverhampton, is also retiring after 22 years based at Brierley Hill fire station. He joined the service in 1991 following a 10-year stint as an engineer in the Royal Navy.

Before then he worked as an apprentice engineer at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton. The former Heath Park School student said: "My highlights of the job were the odd callouts and the jobs where you saved lives, but mostly, the camaraderie of the team."

He added: "I will miss the friends I worked with and I hope to remain in contact with many of them."

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**FOCUS ON CRADLEY AND CRADLEY HEATH****Car park with 98 new bays at centre**

A £250,000 car park which will provide almost 100 new parking spaces has opened at a popular leisure centre.

The development provides 98 new parking bays at Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Cradley Heath.

**Demolished**

It has been built on the site of the old Municipal Buildings in Barrs Road, which were demolished last year.

The work started in September and was completed on schedule.

Sandwell Leisure Trust bought the Municipal Buildings site from Sandwell Council in 2012.

It sold part of the land to West Midlands Fire Service for a replacement fire station for both the Halesowen and Cradley Heath stations.

**Bright work by children**

CHILDREN brought more colour to a church when they provided artwork from their classroom for an exhibition.

Artwork for the Big Draw at St Peter's Church in Cradley featured art based on locations around the town. Pupils, parents and carers from Colley Lane Primary, Caslon Primary and Cradley C of E Primary schools took part.

# Legacy of chainmaker is to live on at retirement village

**THE legacy of a celebrated chainmaker will live on at a new retirement village being built near a park he helped to create.**

Midland Heart has started work on the development of 120 homes next to Homer Hill Park in Cradley. The developer has announced plans to name the access road to the development after Benjamin Hodggets.

**Land**

The businessman and chainmaker helped purchase the land for the park in 1920. He was also chairman of Cradley Parish Council which was abolished in the mid 1920s.

The land has been managed by the Homer Hill Recreation Ground Trust ever since and this came under the control of Dudley Council.

The new road will be called Benjamin Drive according to a report drawn up by transport chief Khurshid Ahmed.

It said: "Benjamin Hodggets was a well-known chain maker who died in 1926."

"He was assigned to buy land at Homer Hill for recreation while chairman of Cradley Parish Council. It was thought that he lent his own money for this purpose."

The development is being built on the site of the

by Lisa Wright

former Cradley High School.

Construction work began in July on the complex which will feature facilities including a bar, coffee shop, restaurant, hall, gym and library.

The apartments would be available to buy or rent, or be taken on under shared ownership.

Every unit will have its own front entrance door, while bigger apartments will incorporate a second bedroom, with enough space for wheelchair access.

There will also be garden and woodland areas.

The development is due to be completed in the spring of 2015.

It follows similar schemes - Broad Meadow in Middlepark Road, Russells Hall and Willowfields in Whitehouse Street, Coseley.

Plans were given the green light in March, despite opposition from residents living near the site, off Slade Road.

The Friends group for the nearby Homer Hill Park had also objected to the scheme fearing it would have a negative impact on the park.

## No resting on laurels at Repose

A FAMILY-RUN firm that makes chairs is ready for further growth after completing a move to a new factory in Cradley Heath.

The 23,500 sq ft unit in Cokeland Place has seen a return to the town where it was formed in 1999 for Repose Furniture.

**Turnover**

Repose which had outgrown its premises in Brick Kiln Street, Brierley Hill, where it had been since 2001, is now poised to double its turnover.

The move came after the company announced it was expecting to achieve a 21 per cent increase in turnover for its current financial year. It has enabled seating specialists Repose to expand manufacturing facility and help it meet an increase in demand from healthcare providers nationwide.

Managing director Lisa Wardley said Repose was set to achieve even further growth as it approaches its 15th anniversary next year.



Managing director Lisa Wardley in the Repose showroom at the new factory

## Campaign pleased at fine over rubbish tip

RESIDENTS and traders in Cradley have called public meetings, issued leaflets and lobbied councillors and MPs as part of their clean-up crusade in their town.

Campaigners have declared they are winning their fight after environmental officers landed one businessman with a fine for failing to clear waste.

An old settler, car tyres and general waste were among a heap of rubbish found on a piece of land near a shop in Cradley.

Members of Cradley Action Group reported the mess to officers from Dudley Council alongside others in Colley Gate and Windmill Hill.

Officials have taken the occupier of the Colley Gate shop to court after he failed to shift the waste. Dudley Council said Anthony Anyanwu, occupier of the shop, had been served with the notice in March to remove the rubbish within 28 days.

Anyanwu was found guilty by Dudley Magistrates on November 14 of two charges of failing to comply with a notice served by council environmental health officers. He was fined £400 for each of two offences and ordered to pay court costs of £767.87 and a £40 victim surcharge.

Campaigner Richard Legiewicz said: "We are pleased with the way things are going."

## Independent Family Funeral Directors

**Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd, formally known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons are a long established Funeral Directors based in Cradley Heath.**

In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath in the Black Country. His son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors.

Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2007 and is now working closely with his father in the day to day running of the business and conducting of the funerals in the long established family business still located in Lower High Street. In late 2008 Trevor and Ross took over the running of R. Hadley Funeral Services in Halesowen. Carrying on the established business to the same standard and code of practice that of T. E. W. Hickton & T Hadley & Co. Trevor's other son Greg joined the business in 2010.

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## NEWS

# Council can't keep a lid on latest bin characters



The four bins cartoon characters that are being used to encourage youngsters to recycle rubbish – the three good bins are perfect examples of re-using waste, as opposed to the bad bin, right

**IS IT A bird? Is it plane? No... it's a rubbish bin. Super-heroes – and supervillains – come in all shapes and sizes, and now a new fantastic four have been employed to take out the trash – literally.**

The four different kinds of rubbish bins in Sandwell – three good bins, one bad bin – have been turned into new cartoon heroes to encourage children and other residents to recycle.

They will be taking to the streets of the borough as part of a new Litter Watch campaign, which includes an interactive comic book in which children can help to decide the story lines.

The three heroes and one villain have been created based on how resi-

dents should currently be recycling – one hero is a small brown bin, for food waste, another is green for garden waste, and the third is blue for paper, glass and other recycling.

The baddie is the grey bin – he takes waste that cannot be recycled and must be taken to landfill.

It is all part of the initiative from Litter Watch, Sandwell Council and its waste partner Serco, to get people to use the three 'good' bins more and the grey bin less.

## Excited

The characters will now form part of Litter Watch's education programme, with children from Wood Green Junior School in Wednesbury and Christ Church Junior School in Oldbury helping to launch the initiative this week.

Alicia Wingfield, project manager of Litter Watch, said: "We are so excited about launching these characters. We think they will capture people's imagination and help hit the message home about recycling. Children especially absorb information that is presented in a fun and imaginative way."

A comic-style newsletter has been created to highlight the importance of recycling and will be available online.

Cabinet member for highways and environment Councillor Maria Crompton said: "This is a great scheme and one that really brings home the recycling message."

Jason Holton, partnership director for Serco, added: "We love working with Litter Watch on these types of projects as they are really imaginative. Children are great ambassadors and they take the message home with them to their families."



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## NEWS

## Ex-housing chiefs received £210,000



Payout – John Clayton

TWO former housing bosses who took voluntary redundancy walked away with payouts of a combined £210,000, it can be revealed.

The money was given to Sandwell Homes' former interim chief executive Paul Field, who had been picking up a salary of £109,873, and the organisation's director of asset management John Clayton, whose salary banding was from £85,490 to £101,687.

Both volunteered for redundancy before Sandwell Council took over responsibility for council housing in January. The payouts have been revealed in the organisation's final set of accounts. They show termination benefits for its executive managers were £210,000 in the nine months up to January 1. Both Mr Field and Mr Clayton took voluntary redundancy on December 31 last year.

Last year the council said moving Sandwell Homes's work 'in house' would save £262,000 a year as three senior manager roles would be merged into one inside the council.



Senior role – Paul Field

## Teenage burglar was linked by fingerprints

A BURGLAR who helped steal around £20,000 of jewellery, cash and a diamond ring during a house break-in was caught almost two years later thanks to fingerprints left at the scene, a court heard.

Qasim Hussain had his fingerprints taken after being stopped by police on an unrelated matter, which subsequently linked him to the house burglary in Tipton.

Hussain had only been 16 at the time when he joined others to force entry into a house in Park Lane East, at around 4pm on March 9, 2012.

The bathroom window had been forced to allow one of the group inside to let the others into the property, the court was told.

The family eventually forced their way in to find their bedrooms ransacked with clothes pulled from cupboards and draws.

Ms Suki Ruck, prosecuting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, said the family returned to find around £1,000 in cash had been taken along with £20,000 of jewellery.

"The defendant was incriminated by his fingerprint which had been left on a black bin liner containing clothes found inside the bedroom," Ms Ruck said.

Hussain, of Wellington Road, Tipton, pleaded guilty to one charge of burglary and appeared in court last week for sentence.

Judge Martin Walsh sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, and ordered him to complete 160 hours unpaid work. Miss Kate Thomas, defending, said Hussain, who is now aged 18, was led by 'peer pressure' to take part in the burglary.

## Accolade for elderly boost

A PARTNERSHIP that has helped hundreds of elderly people live a more independent and enjoyable life has won an award.

Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) has won the Social Enterprise Partner category at the Social Enterprise West Midlands Awards for its partnership with Agewell – a local social enterprise offering befriending and support services to older people.

Deborah Harrold, Chief Executive at Agewell, said: "With the CCG's support we have been able to continue to address the issues that affect older people's quality of life and to ensure they have a say in the design, redesign and evaluation of health services."

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## NEWS

# Mini power station will be first of its kind in the UK

A £13 MILLION mini power station that converts waste into electricity will be the 'first of its kind in the UK' when work starts next year.

The landmark project in Portway Road, Wednesbury was unanimously approved at Sandwell Council's planning committee.

The site's current owners, Humphries Holdings, a demolition firm and their partners Broadcrown will work together to turn two empty industrial units into a power plant that will operate 24 hours a day.

Waste will be delivered to the plant, weighed, recorded and sorted to remove rubble or metal components. Materials will also be removed and taken elsewhere to be recycled.

Plans for the site include the construction of a 91ft-high chimney, new offices and a gatehouse.

The site is expected to process around 60,000 tons of waste every year from building sites and local industry, as well as biomass and some waste from other authorities.

The majority of the waste it will process would usually be sent to landfill, but by using a process known as gasification, it will be turned into fuel using steam that will power generators.

by Simon Stone

It is estimated that each year around 90 per cent of the waste will be turned into heat and 3.5 megawatts of electricity that will be pumped back into the grid.

Ward Councillor Peter Hughes said: "The plant will be the first of its kind in the UK. This area was at the forefront of the industrial revolution and this development will put the town back in the forefront for renewable energy."

At an exhibition held in September residents welcomed the plans for the former engineering site to be turned into a power station, despite an increase in traffic that could see 44 truck movements a day.

Fellow Wednesbury Councillor Elaine Costigan added: "I'm so pleased with the decision. They've done similar jobs all over the world. It's going to be great for the area."

# 'Miracle' escape from terror of killer typhoon



**AFTER escaping unscathed from a 'terrifying' six hours alone as his flat in the Philippines was lashed by Typhoon Haiyan, Tom Gore could have been forgiven for taking up his bosses' offer fly straight home to England.**

But instead the 23-year-old from Stourbridge set about aiding his colleagues in helping scores of people left homeless and hungry by the disaster.

Tom says it was a 'miracle' that he and some 80 colleagues in the city of Tacloban, in the province hardest

hit by the typhoon, escaped with their lives. But he added: "A lot of their houses were totally destroyed and they lost everything."

"We have sheltered about 50 people in our offices in Tacloban and having been buying food and medical supplies for them, as well as taking it out to the villages to help other people."

## Howling

Tom was awoken at 3am by a howling wind as the typhoon approached and it got worse, with the storm at its height for four hours. "It was pretty terrifying," he said. "The wind was so loud, the rain so heavy and I could hear glass



breaking. A tree flew into my wall – at any other angle it would have gone through the window.

"At first I was texting people but the storm suddenly caused a black-out and the phone lines went down."

The former student at Redhill School, Stourbridge, and Halesowen College, who got a first class degree in history at Manchester Metropolitan University, works for Manchester-based Kaya Responsible Travel, which offers people the chance to get work experience overseas and volunteer for projects.

With the threat of cholera mounting in Tacloban, he and his work-mates eventually relocated to the island city of Cebu.

There he will be on hand to help with interviews to recruit 100 volunteers to help rebuild devastated areas.

Then he plans to return to the stricken area to carry on the relief effort. If his own experience was frightening, it was even worse for his family back in Heath Street, Stourbridge.

His mother Judy, 55, said: "For a long time we did not know if he was alive or dead. Finally we got a message through saying he was safe and well. I cannot describe the relief of that message."

More than 4,000 people are believed to have been killed in the storm and around 1,200 are missing.

## Poets get first look inside the new archive

VISITORS can get their first glimpse inside a new £6 million archives centre during a programme of events ahead of its launch in the New Year.

Dudley Council has organised various activities in the run-up to the centre in Tipton Road opening to the public in January.

Budding poets can create history and heritage poetry led by Brenda Read-Brown, who was Gloucestershire's poet laureate in 2012-13.

The poetry workshops will run from 10.30am-12pm on December 4 and January 15.

## Coal'ole

Dr Brian Dakin will be taking to the stage on December 5 for an hour of stories and unaccompanied songs based on his latest book *From the Coal'ole and Other Stories*.

Dudley's Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for libraries said: "We are proud to host a series of activities at our brand new archives and local history centre."

The centre will house IT and public wi-fi services, education and conference rooms, a rare-book library and a research area.

The council's archives service will relocate from its current building in Mount Pleasant, Coseley, to the new site.

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# Angry man is jailed for smashing shop window

**A THIEF threw a bottle smashing a shop window, a court heard.**

Martin Perry was jailed for 10 months after he stole eight bottles of booze from Everything Criss Supermarket in Dudley.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that Perry went into the shop in June. He was seen to select a number of bottles before making his way out of the store.

Perry, aged 53, then hurled a bottle at the front of the premises.

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said that after his arrest Perry, who appeared via video link, was taken to the police station where he caused £200 damage to a mattress in his cell before spitting in the face of one of the officers.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "He accepts he should not have acted in the way he did."

"After his release from prison he found

himself struggling to pay bills and keep a roof over his head.

"He was at a very low ebb in his life and he knows he behaved foolishly."

The court heard Perry was taking anger management sessions and was studying to improve his chances of finding a job.

## Unpleasant

Judge Michael Dudley told him: "What you did must have been particularly unpleasant for the trainee shop assistant and breaking the window added to her concern."

"The further damage you did was stupid and it was also a particularly unpleasant common assault on the police officer."

Perry, of Sweetman Street, Whitmore Reans, Wolverhampton admitted two charges of criminal damage, common assault and theft.

# Take a look at her now, a top author



Miranda Dickinson's latest book, Take a Look at Me Now, has sold 50,000 copies

FIVE books published, five Sunday Times bestsellers with 500,000 copies sold – not bad for a girl from Kingswinford, says author Miranda Dickinson.

This month she is celebrating the success of her latest book Take A Look At Me Now which, after being published last month, has already sold 50,000 copies and has reached third in the overall book chart. It is also top of the Amazon contemporary romance chart and fourth in the bestsellers list by Sunday Times.

From Kingswinford School to working as a nuclear power station tour guide in Essex and returning to the Black Country, the 40-year-old has only been writing professionally for five years.

After being discovered via a story she wrote for an internet

forum, Ms Dickinson has now published five novels, starting with the worldwide hit Fairytale of New York in 2009.

"It has been amazing, really," she said. "From an early age I always told people I wanted to write, people would nod their head and say the usual, but here I am, I can't believe it. I come from Kingswinford, this doesn't happen to people like me."

She is already putting together a draft for her next novel, which will be 'an almost sequel' to her first book Fairytale of New York. She reveals that many of her characters are inspired by people she meets in the Black Country.

She will be meeting fans at Netherton Library on December 5 and Jilly's Coffee Shop in Kingswinford on December 6.

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Premier Dining	£199	£169

Joining Stations	Depart	Return
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Stourbridge Junct.	09:00	20:45
Birmingham New St.	09:30	20:15

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Saturday 28 December

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From top to bottom - Ken Bullock, of Beacon Centre, Chairman, Wilf Ellis, Arwyn Jones, Beacon Centre Chief Executive, Alex Hamill, JW Hunt President, Tony Duncan, JW Hunt Chairman, Keith Jackson, Jan Smith, from sponsor Barclays, Manmohan Singh and Walter Wakeman

# Cup competition raises £7k for Beacon Centre

AN HISTORIC football tournament has helped to raise £7,000 for a charity for blind people. Organisers of the JW Hunt Cup handed over the cash to Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind.

The money will be used to help people with sight problems in the Black Country live fuller more independent lives. Money was raised through fees to games and programme costs.

The cup is open to amateur teams across the region. Black Country Rangers were the winners after beating Wolverhampton Casuals 4-3 in a match at the Molineux in May.

## Proud

The competition started in 1926 and the cup has over the years raised more than £284,000 for the Beacon Centre.

More than 30 teams are taking part in the new campaign, with Black Country Rangers hoping to make it three triumphs on the bounce.

Jenni Fryer, fundraising manager at Beacon Centre for the Blind, said: "We are extremely proud to be associated with this historic competition and grateful to everyone involved in the JW Hunt Cup for raising this incredible amount of money to help people who are blind or visually impaired in the Black Country."

"We are all avid football fans at the Beacon Centre and offer our congratulations to Black Country Rangers for a fine performance last season."





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**NEETA** Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

**ROSA**, 27yrs, seductive foreign beauty. Seems no strings discreet fun, any area. Call to hear my desires. **ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408093**

**HI** I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

**SUSIE** 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

**ANNA**, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

**BABS** 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**

**SUSIE**, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 407321**

**BUBBLY** 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

**JOANNA** 34, in need of tlc, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

**MARIA** gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733**

**KIM** attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

**TAYLOR** attractive very busty curvy blonde female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

**BETHANY** 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

**HI** I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933**

**FEMALE** many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537**

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**28YR** old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639**

**MIXED** raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429**

**68YR** old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413**

**JENNY** single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285**

**CHRIS** blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615**

**ATTRACTIVE** female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135**

**LITTLE** bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428**

**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106**

**TEXT: CHAT26 TO: 80098**  
\*TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg received, for full t&cs see below

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**CAROL** 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853**

**SUE** attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm, someone sincere to love me and get close to, why not give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021**

**CURVEY** Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603**

**SLIM** active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

**ANNABELLA** board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun, No TLC required. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449**

**SUE** 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019**

**NICKY** loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459**

**BLACK** female, 45, seeking older gent, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787**

**PAM** 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408751**

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

**MANDY** divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469**

**NICKY** 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possess the ability to fall in love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485**

**MICHELLE** lonely singleton, fit/sleender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501**

**HEATHER** rather than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307**

**TRACY** 35yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTm tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215**

**LYN** slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTm genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195**

**DEBS** 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine male for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039**

**BLONDE** blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113**

**WHERE** have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025**

**PAULA** 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029**

**MEDIUM** built female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

**HI** I am Linda a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715**

**ANITA** petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar male for adult no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406833**

**CARING** female, likes Indian rock music, concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs male, 40-55, for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406757**

**LINDA** bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well mannered professional for discreet adult meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705**

**GOOD** looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great fun with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

**DONNA** 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341**

**FEMALE** looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169**

**SINGLE** cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015**

**PAT** 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

**SHELLEY** 48, 5ft 5ins, brunette, seeking discreet relationship with male 48-52 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405795**

**CHRISTINA** 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405243**

**BLACK** female 32yrs, 38dd, very curvy, sensual and looking for discreet fun with no strings or complications, any age, looks or status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405269**

**MARIA** petite curvy brunette, into keep fit, running, beauty, looking for nice genuine tall N/S guy with no ties for fun adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405099**

**SHAZ** 33 easygoing voluptuous black female with lovely smile and personality to match, loves music, keeping fit and looking good, WLTm appreciative guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404819**

**WOMAN** 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

**WIDOW** young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTm younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

**ELIZABETH** 33, curvy attractive blonde, likes walking, socialising, meals out, entertaining, WLTm well educated nice male 50-60's for nice times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403937**

**SENSUAL** cuddly 32yr old professional looking for similar minded discreet male up to 40yrs for 1-2-1 fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404023**

**48YR** old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

**JANE** attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

**TINA** fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in, dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567**

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127**

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245**

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

**GAIL** 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

**LIZ** 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949**

**RETIRE** widow, kind, caring, loyal, N/S, seeks gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 385115**

**DEBBIE** sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759**

**NICKY** lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189**

**RETIRE** lady, seeks gent for friendship and outings, holidays etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392936**

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

**GRACE** Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387681**

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837**

**35YR** old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388297**

**FEMALE** looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295**

**MANDY** 36, size 10 but busty, looking for discreet relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317**

**CLAUDIA** 37yr old attractive single mum who has been unlucky in love looking for special male to make me feel gorgeous again. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390991**

**FRIENDLY** outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (it's true) WLTm adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to most ages/things, happy to try most things. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 355761**

**TALL** curvy female, 38dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395238**

**VIVACIOUS** strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, wants down to earth caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. 35-69. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 366707**

**KIRSTY** 36 attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded discreet decent male who can accommodate for adult fun friendship. 40-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 373013**

**SUZANNA** lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for lots of TLC and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375711**

## SINGLE MEN

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**GARY** 40, tall, dark hair, seeks female, 30-50 for fun and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409207**

**GENEROUS** male, 6ft, GSOH, likes music, DIY, seeks attractive lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409019**

**TONY** 55, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks mature, attractive female, 68 plus, genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408989**

**FUN** loving male, 47, lots to give, looking for genuine lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409159**

**32YR** old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

**GEANT** 55, slightly mad, but not bad, will make you glad you answered his ad! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408973**

**TALL** intelligent, professional fit guy, 50's, athletic, seeks good natured, intelligent female, 50-57 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408991**

**LONELY** male, 55, seeks Indian/Jamaican female, 25 plus for sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408957**

**ATTRACTIVE** male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189**

**MARK** 44, 6ft, dark hair, businessman, interesting, seeking sporty female for meals out, day trips, country walks etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408571**



**FUN** loving male, 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, seeks mature female, 50-65 for meals out and daytime relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408185**

**JIMMY** 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

**JOHN** 59, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, seeks lady, 46-55, likes meals out and in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403273**

**TIM** easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. **Notts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

**GEANT** 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

**MATURE** land owner, GSOH, youthful outlook, likes countryside, socialising, history, seeks lady who appreciates good food/conversation with view to relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408417**

**BROADMINDED** 42yr old male, GSOH, caring, loving good personality seeks female for fun friendship, relationship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404623**

**MATURE** male, lonely, no ties, attractive, likes TV, reading, walks, holidays, meals out, seeks attractive, smart female, 65-72 to share simple things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408183**

**MAURICE** Shropshire farmer, 43,



## Actors prepare for a big Night

AN AWARD-WINNING drama group for people with learning disabilities has been picked to go on stage with the Royal Shakespeare Company – for the second time.

Stourbridge-based Side by Side actors are now into rehearsals to present their version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in the town next summer.

Seventeen of the group's 30 actors will perform the play at Stourbridge Town Hall from June 25 to 28.

**Pictured getting ready for the forthcoming play is Sarah Field, 39, front, with other theatre group members**



## Conman gets four years for preying on elderly

**HE PREYED on elderly and vulnerable residents as he concocted lies about a sick wife to extort hundreds of pounds at the doorstep.**

Darren Hemmings, who was a conman trying to fund his drug habit, caused his victims – many aged over 80 – distress by pressuring them to part with cash.

### Disgraceful

A judge branded his crimes 'utterly disgraceful' as he jailed the 44-year-old

for four years at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

Hemmings, of Hurcott Road, Kidderminster, pleaded guilty at a previous hearing to seven charges of fraud by false representation to obtain cash.

Hemmings asked for seven similar offences to be taken into consideration.

The court heard he dreamt up different lies to deceive the often 'vulnerable' residents and dupe them into handing over cash at homes as he carried out the fraud in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Hagley, the court heard

Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting, said the offences took place mainly against victims aged between 75 and 94 during June, July and August of this year.

It was revealed that Hemmings had around 29 previous convictions for similar offences including 'dishonesty' crimes since he first offended in 1988.

Judge Martin Walsh told Hemmings: "You have got an appalling record for committing offences of this sort."

"These were utterly disgraceful crimes committed against vulnerable and elderly members of the community."

## Keep an eye on your pint



Co-owners Alan Preece, left, and Paul Williams open their new micro brewery, complete with its own bar and lounge on Gainsborough Trading Estate

BEER drinkers can now watch a local ale being brewed from a stylish bar with a pint of it in their hand.

The Badelynge Bar is due to open tomorrow (Friday) at the Green Duck Beer Company micro-brewery on an industrial estate in Stourbridge.

It is the brainchild of company directors Paul Williams and Alan Preece, who have spent four months converting the former engineering unit in the Gainsborough Industrial Estate.

### Glass

The unit is split down the middle with a glass wall – with fermenting tanks to make the firm's speciality beers one side, and a lounge for up to 120 drinkers on the other.

The lounge features a bar, a pub-styled corner with a sofa and table as well as about a dozen wooden tables.

Mr Williams and Mr Preece plan to open to the public every Friday and Saturday.

## Black Country building society choose new boss

A NEW chief executive for the Tipton and Coseley Building Society has been appointed and takes over from the start of next month.

Richard Newton, 43, currently the society's finance director, will succeed long-serving Chris Martin who retires on Saturday. Mr Newton said the society, which has branches in Tipton, Coseley, Bilston and Sedgley, remains committed to providing mortgage advice for local customers under new regulations.

Marcus Daly, the Tipton's chairman, said: "The board undertook a rigorous selection process, working closely with a specialist executive recruitment firm to select a suitable successor, and is extremely pleased to have appointed someone of Richard's calibre to replace Chris as chief executive."

Mr Newton said: "I am pleased and honoured to be succeeding Chris. My approach will build upon the ethos of the Tipton."

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## REVIEWS

## Phone silence is golden for homage

**New Jersey Nights, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton**  
IT TOOK for me to see Jersey Boys in the West End to appreciate the full extent of The Four Seasons' work, so I was always looking forward to hearing those sounds again.

New Jersey Nights pays homage to the music of Frankie Valli and co, rather than the story behind the band but Oh, What A Night!

All the big hits were there – Sherry, Walk Like A Man, Rag Doll and Big Girls Don't Cry, Let's Hang On and even those that people didn't realise they performed, like Silence Is Golden. All four performers – John Hawkins, Ricki Rojas, Simon Schofield and Damion Searcella – were given the chance to shine. The harmonies were great but all deserved their chance in the spotlight. They pulled off the falsettos too.

There was an opening night incident as the performers were put off their stride by a mobile phone going off in the audience to the tune of La Bamba, followed by Schofield hitting the wrong note as they performed Blue Moon. That only seemed to add to the enjoyment, though, and, corpsing over, they recovered well for a blistering finale that included a medley of all that had come before.

Mark Shipp

## Bearded Bragg in form with country and classics

**Billy Bragg, Symphony Hall, Birmingham**  
THERE was little which escaped Bragg's scrutiny before an appreciative and packed Symphony Hall audience, from fascism and financial greed to the usefulness of beards and rebellion against DIY.

Looking like a mannequin from a Nashville country and western store and fighting a throat infection which had dogged him from the German leg of his Tooth and Nail tour, Bragg's self-deprecating and relaxed manner gave the concert the feel of a cosy gathering down a local pub.

With what seemed like enough guitars to kit out a small militia, Bragg treated his fans to some urban country with Way Over Yonder In The Minor Key and then Chasing Rainbows which was a full-on country and

## Sam's on first

**Sam Carter, Newhampton Folk Club**  
WITH the smell of fresh paint still hanging in the air, Sam Carter was the first act to enjoy the newly decorated surroundings of the Newhampton Folk Club.

Carter opened at the upper room of the pub with a light-hearted love song Pheasant is loosely inspired by roadkill and has the line "You flattened me like a pheasant on a country lane". Straight away you see how precise Carter's guitar picking is, he has probably the most flexible fingers on the circuit. Unfortunately a lot of the time his voice doesn't match the quality of his playing. **DF**



Billy Bragg at Symphony Hall, Birmingham

western ballad, complete with steel pedal. With a change to his electric Fender, the classic Bragg emerged with All You Fascists Bound To Lose. This linked in nicely with a song from his hero Guthrie and I Ain't Got No Home In This World.

Bragg brought back the country sound with You Woke Up My Neighbourhood before unleashing Scousers Never Buy The Sun, a scathing rant against the media in general and newspapers in particular over tabloid coverage of the Hillsborough disaster.

Bragg did the middle section of the set without his band, covering She's Got A New Spell, explaining the importance of The Remembrance and threw in Milkman of Human Kindness, Levi Stubbs Tears, Sexuality and his Handyman Blues, from his latest album. He headed towards the end of the set with some classic Bragg in New England and Accident Waiting to Happen.

Danny Farragher

## Folk joke is getting thin

**Ade Edmondson & The Bad Shepherds, Birmingham Town Hall**

ADE Edmondson has enjoyed several incarnations from the anarchic Vyvyan of The Young Ones through to his more sedate Ade in Britain and popularity on Masterchef. Behind all this has been Edmondson the musician who claims to be a thrash mandolin player, which tells you straight away that he and his band The Bad Shepherds are not to be taken totally seriously.

However, don't make the mistake that this levity is a sign they do not take their music seriously. Whether you like their "messing about" with what have become modern punk classics – and it has to be said some of the cover versions which have their Celtic blend of music bolted on do not work – Edmondson, Troy Donockley and Andy Dinan are incredible musicians. Their sheer skill came through right from the off with Edmondson on mandolin, Dinan on fiddle and Donockley on flute.

The novelty of the fusion of punk and folk was part of the enjoyment but it soon got a little wearisome. **DF**

## Numan was electric



Darker and dramatic, Gary Numan rocks out before a full house at the Wulfrun Hall

**Gary Numan, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton**

WHO'D have thought it, that the awkward young man with a synth who had a hit in 1979 with Are Friends Electric? Under the name Tubeway Army, would become one of rock's great survivors.

He always seemed a bit of an outsider in the '80s, despite his pioneering electronic rock, but those who lost touch with Gary Numan after his other massive hit, Cars, may be surprised to discover he has prospered in the shadows.

Numan, through being an early influence on bands such as Nine Inch Nails, Marilyn Manson and the reinvented and heavily tattooed Depeche

Mode, was wholeheartedly adopted by those other outsiders, the industrial rock and goth crowd. It was a marriage made in, well, maybe not heaven given the doom and dystopian tendencies of his songs.

The kohl-eyed and black-clad rockers rubbed shoulders with nostalgic 50somethings as Numan – or Nooooooman, as his fans chant – put on an impressive one hour and 45 minute performance at the Wulfrun.

Blacker of hair and musical mood than before, he contorted like Iggy Pop when not playing guitar on hunched over a keyboard.

The bank of video screens flashed up sinister and disturbing images, including at one point concentration camp

victims. This was no jolly nostalgia show.

I knew few of his new songs but material from latest album Splinter – subtitled Songs From A Broken Mind and featuring a Jack the Ripper-like image of Numan – was impressive as his three-piece rhythm section and two fellow keyboardists cranked up a mighty melodic wall of sound.

Long-term fans will have recognised Down In The Park and I Die You Die from earlier in his career but they had to wait until the encores for Cars and Are Friends Electric?

But it was fitting that he ended with a new song, the epic and elegiac My Last Day.

Leon Burakowski

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For most visitors the highlight will be a full day's game drive that brings the chance to see the sweeping savannah and muddy waterholes lined with animals, and to marvel at the incredible 150 mammal and 500 bird species that live in the Kruger National Park, including the 'big five': elephant, lion, rhino, leopard and buffalo. Rooms are reserved at the three-star superior Hippo Hollow Country Estate, located in the midst of lush forest on the banks of the Sabie River. It's open-air terrace overlooks the grounds and river, so watch out for the hippos!

Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isilandwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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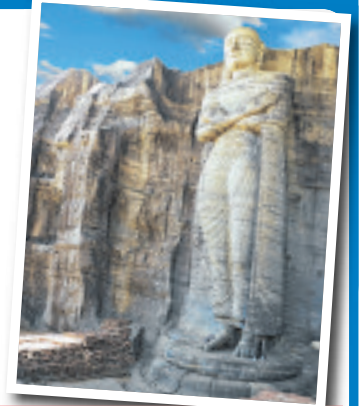
## Sri Lanka

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One of the first adventures on the itinerary is the famous Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage which boasts a herd of over 75 animals from matriarchs to calves and their daily bath in the river provides a stunning photo opportunity.

Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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# Tributes to music man Harry, 70 Campaign will fight threat to free travel



Harry Rowlands – guitarist

TRIBUTES have been paid to musician, retired company director and charity worker Harry Rowlands, described as the 'nicest man you could ever meet'.

Mr Rowlands, who played in bands with famous Black Country musician Bev Pegg, died following a battle with lung cancer aged 70.

He was known for his rendition of Running Bear, the most requested song in the history of the pair's various band line-ups over the decades.

He had lived in Stourbridge all his life and was a pupil at King Edwards VI Grammar School from 1954 to 1961.

His musical career started when his father Alec bought him a guitar when he was 15 and his first gig was with Mr Pegg and friend Pete Burkes at a dance near Abersoch while on holiday.

During his years at Manchester University, he continued to play and became the fifth member of Mr Pegg's group, The Rhythmairs.

He was also a successful businessman. After graduating in chemical engineering, he started his career in synthetic rubber production.

He then entered the water industry in 1967. He

founded Purac Ltd, the process plant contracting company, in Kidderminster, in 1983.

He relinquished his position as managing director of the company in 1996 to concentrate upon his role as a director with Anglian Water International, where he worked until his retirement in 1998. He later became a Freeman of the City of London.

After his retirement, he was able to devote more of his time to his music.

## Bass

"Harry was an important member of our rock 'n' roll band, our cowboy band, and our skiffle group. His bass guitar playing was always straightforward, no frills, very accurate," said Mr Pegg.

He also worked with Age Concern Stourbridge, becoming a director and overseeing the redevelopment of the Elton Centre in the town.

Mr Rowlands leaves wife Ruth, children Lisa and Alec and grandchildren Stanley, Nathalie and Nancy. He died on November 12, three years after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

His funeral is being held tomorrow (Friday) at 11am at Stourbridge Crematorium.

# Campaign will fight threat to free travel

A CAMPAIGN is being launched against 'terrible' plans to strip Black Country pensioners of free train and tram travel and cut funding for Ring and Ride services.

The proposal is part of a £14 million package of cuts revealed by Centro. The organisation, funded by councils in the West Midlands, says it has to slash the budgets for 'discretionary' travel. Under its cost-cutting plans, fares for children on buses would rise from half an adult fee to two thirds, while funding for the Ring and Ride service would be reduced.

The authority said it also had the option of scrapping funding for children's bus fares and Ring and Ride, which provides a door-to-door service for older people.

Free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled will be protected because it is required by law. But Centro had previously gone further by extending it to trams and trains using its own budgets.

Walsall councillor and former mayor Richard Worrall, who has previously led calls for the National Pensioners' Convention for free bus travel for senior citizens, revealed he would campaign for Centro to have a rethink.

He said: "If there is a 25 to 30 per cent cut to funding for Ring and Ride then there's not going to be a lot left."

"The service is staring oblivion in the face so I am organising a campaign to limit the damage done. "I am very angry at the cuts being imposed by the Government. It is absolutely terrible."

# Hospitals on verge of winter crisis – MP

HOSPITALS are on the verge of a 'winter crisis', according to West Bromwich MP Tom Watson, who obtained figures showing tens of thousands of people are waiting longer than four hours to be seen at A&E departments at Sandwell and City Hospitals.

Almost 18,000 patients waited over the four-hour limit to be seen in A&E at hospitals run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

The figures were revealed as it emerged that 31,000 deaths were linked to cold weather last year across the country – up almost a third on the previous year.

## Ex-pupils say centre mural is mistaken

HISTORY has become a sore subject for ex-pupils of a secondary school who claim a new mural's facts about their old school should be given an 'F'.

Former pupils of Stourbridge's King Edward VI Grammar School claim developers of the town's Crown Centre have got details of the school's history wrong.

The mural, on one of the walls of the recently re-opened shopping precinct, states the building became a grammar school in the 1960s.

## Facts

But former pupils who attended in the 1950s say it was already a grammar school then.

Ex-pupils are now calling on developers to re-work the mural's entry on the school, now King Edward VI College, and make the correction.

Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott said: "The correct facts should have been checked before it went on the mural."

A spokesman for Tesco, which now runs the shopping centre, Simon Petar, said: "We will certainly look into it to see if a mistake has been made."

"If there has been an error we will look to correct it."

Bosses of the trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital in West Bromwich, City Hospital in Birmingham and Rowley Regis Hospital, insist they are confident this winter will not be as difficult as last year.

The figures show that 17,792 patients waited more than four hours for A&E treatment within the trust's area in the last 12 months.

The figures cover City Hospital A&E, its eye centre and Sandwell Hospital's A&E department.

In total, 1,484 people waited more than four hours for treatment in October, which West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson said was a breach of recommended Government guidelines.

The Government's target is for 95 per cent of patients to be seen within four hours of admission to A&E.

Over the last 12 months, 286 patients with eye emergencies at City Hospital had to wait more than four hours.

At City Hospital's main A&E, 10,909 patients had to wait longer, while at Sandwell Hospital the figure was 6,597.

Mr Watson said: "I am deeply concerned that Sandwell's walk-in centre also faces an uncertain future which will put further intolerable pressure on accident and emergency."

"We are on the verge of a winter crisis in the NHS – something we all thought was a thing of the past."

Sarah Millard, spokeswoman for the Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "Last winter was a very difficult one at the trust, exacerbated by norovirus."

"This winter, we believe we can be significantly better."

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# What's On! *Halesowen*

## Magnificent seven set for New Alex

BIRMINGHAM New Alexandra Theatre hosts a new version of a classic American musical early in the new year.

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers with former East-ender actor and Dancing On Ice champion Sam Attwater and Helena Blackman, a How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria finalist, is on from February 3 to 8.

The toe-tapping frontier musical is described as a high energy production by award-winning American director and choreographer Patti Colombo.

## Wendy ready to fly off with Peter Pan

EXCITEMENT is growing over the Royal Shakespeare Company's new version of much-loved children's fantasy Peter Pan, which will be staged in Stratford from December 10 to March 2.

Entitled Wendy and Peter Pan, Ella Hickson's adaptation of JM Barrie's classic aims to keep all the magic of Neverland whilst providing a few twists and surprises. Holby City actor Guy Henry will be swapping his surgeon's scalpel for a sword to play the dastardly Captain Hook.

## Susan's dream tour

JUST as Meryl Streep is rumoured to be playing her in a biopic, singing sensation Susan Boyle has announced a 2014 UK tour including dates at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 2 and Stoke's Regent Theatre on April 10.

# Panto time again, oh yes it is, as there's nothing like a dame

## Gok tells who is the fairest of them all

THERE is no doubt who will decide the fairest of them all when TV fashionista Gok Wan appears in Birmingham's pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The 39-year-old star of Gok's Fashion Fix, Gok's Style Secrets and How To Look Good Naked will be making his panto debut in the UK's biggest festive show. But it's not the only major show in Birmingham this Christmas with several panto alternatives on offer.

The refurbished Birmingham Rep is staging Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol from now until January 4. Meanwhile, The Old Rep has Tom's Midnight Garden until January 25.

Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre hosts a musical alternative with Dave Stewart and Glen Ballard's hit musical version of Ghost. The tale of love conquering death is a blend of impressive special effects, music, romance and comedy including the timeless hit song Unchained Melody. It is on from December 17 to January 5.



Snow White and the Wicked Queen will get style advice from Gok Wan as The Man in the Mirror in Birmingham Hippodrome's pantomime this festive season

## CERI Dupree and Gary Wilmott will battle it out in the war of the dames when the region's big two pantomimes open next month.

Ceri plays Queen Passionella in Sleeping Beauty at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, co-starring with funnyman

Joe Pasquale as Muddles and Coronation Street's Lucy Evans as Princess Beauty. The Grand panto opens on Saturday, December 7, and runs until January 8.

Meanwhile, Birmingham Hippodrome will host the UK's biggest panto with its star-studded version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

West End star Gary Wilmott will be putting on the frocks to play the dame in a production that features TV fashion guru Gok Wan as The Man In The Mirror and Dynasty actress Stephanie Beacham as the Wicked Queen. Over The Rainbow winner Danielle Hope, who played Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, is Snow White.

The panto, featuring further comic support from ventriloquist Paul Zerdin as Muddles and Matt Slack as Oddjob, will run at the Hurst Street venue from Thursday, December 19, to February 2.

To book for Sleeping Beauty call 01902 429212 or to book for Snow White call 0844 338 5000, or see the theatres' websites.



Ceri Dupree, dame in the Grand's Sleeping Beauty



Gary Wilmott in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

## Hands on as band are own support

AWARD-WINNING band Show of Hands is coming to Wolverhampton next month as part of the Devon group's celebration of 21 years making music.

Coming towards the end of a 30-date tour, SoH will be playing the Wulfrun Hall on December 4 in one of the band's last gigs until autumn next year.

The partnership of multi-talented Steve Knightley and Phil Beer will be teaming up with Miranda Sykes to not only play as a band but to be their own support too.

The show starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £18 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk) and subject to booking fees.

## Railway Children arrive at town hall

STOURBRIDGE Theatre Company bring their version of classic family drama The Railway Children to the stage at Stourbridge Town Hall from tonight (Thursday) until Saturday, including Saturday matinee.

Dave Simpson has adapted E Nesbit's novel. Tickets cost £9 (concessions £8) and £5 for children aged 14 and under. Tickets are available from The French Deli, Dudley Council Plus, or via 01384 812812.

## Manford's dates

MANCUNIAN comic Jason Manford brings his First World Problems Tour to Dudley Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday.

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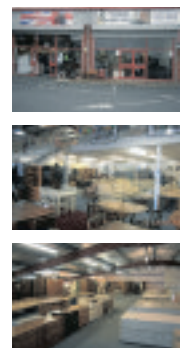
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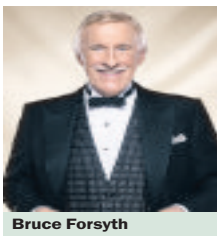


## What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 30.11.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Bruce Forsyth

## Strictly Come Dancing

**BBC1, 7pm**  
So far we've had the romance of a love week and the frights of Halloween – now the seven remaining couples will be paying homage to musicals from stage and screen. If the routines turn out to be more worthy of a Golden Raspberry award than an Oscar, there will at least be a group dance by the professionals to the title song from Cole Porter's classic Anything Goes. No doubt judges Len Goodman, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood will be on their feet applauding after that. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. Gabby Logan meets cycling star Becky James. **1.45** Live Rugby League World Cup Final. Coverage from Old Trafford (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** My Family Christmas Special. (R) **6.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.15** Pointless Celebrities. With Graeme Garden, Dan Snow, Susie Dent, and Germaine Greer. **7.00** Strictly Come Dancing. The twinkle-toed contestants celebrate songs from musicals as they take another step closer to lifting the glitterball trophy. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present. **8.15** Atlantis. Medusa is kidnapped and held to ransom. **9.00** Casualty. Fletch races to save two boys from a dangerous predator, while Sam helps a former wartime spy regain her home and Ash treats a girl who has accidentally eaten her pet cat's ashes. **9.50** The National Lottery Live. Chris Evans reveals the results. **10.00** BBC News: Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Cardiff City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update. **11.40** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two. **12.55** Weather. **1.00** News.

## BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.00** Film: Dean Spanley. (2008) **8.35** Film: On the Town. (1949) **10.10** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.40** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.30** Refugees of the Lost Rainforest. **12.00** The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass. (R) **1.00** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the first round at the Barbican Centre in York. **4.30** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Australia (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** Jonathan Davies – Trimsaran Boy. Profile of former rugby player Jonathan Davies. **8.00** Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale, but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girlfriend Violet. (R) **8.30** The Secret Life of Mary Poppins: A Culture Show Special. Victoria Coren Mitchell explores the life of author P.L. Travers, whose books the film Mary Poppins was based on. **9.30** QI XL. Extended edition. Janet Street-Porter, Sandi Toksvig and Johnny Vegas joins regular panellist Alan Davies as host Stephen Fry asks a range of unusual questions on the topic of kinky. **10.15** Film: Carnage. (2011) Premiere. Black comedy, with Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz and John C. Reilly. **11.35** Snooker: UK Championship. Action from the opening round at the Barbican Centre in York. **12.25** Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hatitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hatitude. (R) **7.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Munch Box. **9.25** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** TV News: Weather. **11.30** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** Film: Holiday On the Buses. (1973) **2.15** Doc Martin. (R) **3.15** Film: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (2001) **6.05** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.15** ITV News: Weather. **6.30** New You've Been Framed! Featuring babysitting tips from a cross-dressing father. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. With Eric Bristow, Sammy Winder, Nadine Dorries and Ed Byrne. **8.00** The X Factor. With places in next week's semi-final at stake, the pressure has never been higher as the acts each perform two songs – one of them chosen by the public. Dermot O'Leary hosts. **9.45** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The latest eliminated contestant talks to Ant and Dec about their time in the camp, and the Georgie duo present the usual round-up of highlights from the past 24 hours. **10.50** The Jonathan Ross Show. Celebrity interviews. **11.50** TV News: Weather. **12.05** Take Me Out. (R) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10** FIA GT Series. **7.05** Volleyball. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Heston's Gothic Horror Feast. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. Becky Tyler hosts the fourth dinner party from Bath. (R) **6.05** Come Dine with Me. Frenchman Denis Verrier hosts the final dinner party in Bath. (R) **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Coulson and his team are haunted by a mysterious force that threatens to destroy them all, and only a secret from May's past can save them. (R) **8.00** The Lakes: Walking Through History. Tony Robinson walks 50 miles from Penrith to Ambleside and on to the Irish Sea at Ravenglass, exploring how the Romans conquered the Lake District. **9.00** Charlie Brooker's How Videogames Changed the World. The broadcaster delves into the history of the games industry and celebrates some of its most significant titles, joined by Jonathan Ross, Dara O Briain and leading designers. **11.05** Indie Game: The Movie. Following the development of three independent video games. **1.10** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **1.55** Fresh Meat. (R) **2.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** 90210. **5.25** Countdown. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.35** Sluggerra. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.10** Ben Fogle's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.10** Film: Trading Christmas. (2011) Romantic comedy, starring Faith Ford and Gill Bellows. **1.55** Film: Christmas Mail. (2010) Premiere. Festive romantic comedy, starring Ashley Scott and AJ Buckley. **3.45** Film: The Christmas Gaffer. (2009) Festive drama, starring Dean Cain. **5.40** Film: Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Gutterberg. **7.20** Film: A Carol Christmas. (2003) A TV talk-show host gets a shock when three spirits each pay her a visit to teach her a valuable lesson. Festive comedy drama, with Tori Spelling, Dinah Manoff and Michael Landes. Edited for language. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** The Bible. New series. Drama based on the major events of the holy scriptures, beginning with Noah telling his children how the world was created. Starring David Rintoul. **10.55** Film: Heartbreak Ridge. (1996) A hellraising US Marine is assigned to whip a squad of recruits into shape for the invasion of Grenada. Action adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Marsha Mason. **1.25** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.05** Goering's Last Secret: Revealed. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarn. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarn. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great TV Mistakes **7.10** Doctor Who **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Bruce Almighty (2003) **10.35** Russell Howard's Good News **11.05** Family Guy  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Frozen Planet **8.00** Edward VII: Prince of Pleasure **9.00** Borgen **11.00** Queens of British Pop  
**ITV2**  
**3.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **5.00** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **6.55** Film: Apollo 13 (1995) **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.50** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.50** Fake Reaction  
**ITV3**  
**2.40** Film: The Likely Lads (1976) **4.30** Film: Columbo: Lovely but Lethal (1973) **6.00** A Touch of Frost **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00** Film: Interview with the Vampire (1994)  
**ITV4**  
**12.45** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **5.00** GT Academy **6.00** I Want That Car. Featuring a Jaguar XF and a BMW 3-Series. **7.00** Live Darts. The Players Championship. **11.30** Film: 8 Mile (2002)  
**E4**  
**3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.05** Rules of Engagement **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) **11.35** The Inbetweeners Film  
**Film4**  
**2.40** 17 Again (2009) **4.35** Planet of the Apes (1968) **6.45** Marley and Me (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston. **9.00** Babylon AD (2008) Sci-fi adventure, starring Vin Diesel. **10.45** Kick-Ass (2010)

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# What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 1.12.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

### CHOICE



Tony Robinson

### 1066: The Lost Battlefield – A Time Team Special Channel 4, 8pm

This one-off focuses on where the Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. The title of the conflict should give archaeologists a major clue, but apparently no evidence for it has ever been found – so have they been barking up the wrong tree all these years? Tony Robinson looks on as a dig once again comes up with nothing – but cutting edge aerial technology could hold the key to unlocking secrets a thousand years old, including why Harold lost, and William became a conqueror.

### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Susan Boyle. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** EastEnders. **3.10** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. **3.30** Bargain Hunt. **4.15** Escape to the Country. **5.15** Songs of Praise. David Grant joins the festive preparations on the Isle of Man. **5.50** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.20** Countryfile. Testing out the Peak District leg of next year's Tour de France. **7.20** Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman reveal which couples are in the dance-off, leaving their fates in the hands of the judges, and Alfie Boe performs a song from Les Misérables. **8.00** The Paradise. Katherine learns the truth about her marriage, an indecent proposal leaves Clara questioning who she really is and Denise's suspicions about Moray and Katherine are confirmed. **9.00** Britain and the Sea. David Dimbleby follows the trade routes of the west coast of Scotland, sailing down a waterway designed by East Lothian engineer John Rennie and boarding a Clyde puffer. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Manchester United. **11.45** The Sky at Night. The team hunts for Comet Ison. **12.05** Weather. **12.10** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.05** Film: Battle Cry. (1955) **9.30** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **10.00** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **12.45** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.30** Live Snooker: UK Championship. The second round continues. **5.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. (R) **6.00** Flog It! The team meets people keen to sell their antiques at auction in Weston-super-Mare, and Paul Martin learns about the town's history. (R) **7.00** Cuba with Simon Reeve. How economic liberalisation has affected Cubans and their society. (R) **8.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Bordeaux to Bilbao. Last in the series. **9.00** Morecambe and Wise: The Whole Story. Part two of two. A look at how Eric and Ernie bounced back from the failure of their first TV series to become the nation's most popular entertainers. Dean Lennox Kelly narrates. **10.30** Hebburn. Joe and Dot take advantage of the extra freedom when Pauline goes away. (R) **11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Warwick Davis hosts, with Tom Fletcher, Emma Willis, Alfie Boe and Chris Ramsey. (R) **11.30** Snooker: UK Championship. Highlights from the Barbican Centre in York. **12.20** Snooker: UK Championship Extra. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.15** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Text Santa: Help with Hattitude. (R) **7.50** Victorious. **8.15** Bottom Knockout Street. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Storage Hoarders. (R) **10.30** Sunday Side Up. **11.30** Sunday Scoop. **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Countrywide. (R) **12.55** Inside the National Trust. **1.55** Love Your Garden. (R) **2.55** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** All Star Mr & Mrs. (R) **5.40** Prize Island. Game show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Emma Willis. Last in the series. **6.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Surprise Surprise. Cilla Black and Rod Stewart take part. Last in the series. **8.00** The X Factor Results. Featuring performances by James Arthur and Rebecca Ferguson. **9.00** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The campers battle hunger, the jungle and each other as their third week continues, but the experience is over for one of them with Ant and Dec announcing another elimination. **10.30** ITV News: Weather. **10.45** Off Their Rockers. An OAP attempts escapology for the first time. (R) **11.15** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the weekend's top-flight fixtures. **12.15** The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

### CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The American Football Show. **7.05** FIA GT Series. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Gadget Man. (R) **3.25** Film: Monster-in-Law. (2005) **5.25** Film: Sister Act. (1992) Comedy, starring Whoopi Goldberg. **7.25** Channel 4 News. **7.55** The Political Slot. **8.00** 1066: The Lost Battlefield – A Time Team Special. Tony Robinson and the team embark on excavations at Battle Abbey and nearby Caldbec Hill in an attempt to uncover the true location of the Battle of Hastings. **9.00** Homeland. Carrie reunites with Brody, but the circumstances are more difficult than either of them could have imagined. Meanwhile, Saul receives good news from an unlikely source. **10.00** Rock Night: 50 Years of Rock Excess – Amps, Whips and Rebel Riffs. The history of the enduring music genre, telling the story of how the giant bands of the 1970s changed rock for ever. **11.10** Rock Night: Queens of the Stone Age – iTunes Festival Special. The rock group perform at the Roundhouse in London. **12.05** Rock Night: Queen – Live at Wembley. A performance from 1986. (R) **1.10** American Football Live. Washington Redskins v New York Giants (Kick-off 1.30am). **4.50** KOTV Boxing Weekly. (R) **5.20** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Floortots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Mio Mao. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Sluggert. **11.15** Jungle Babies: Tarsier Tails. (R) **11.45** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.45** Film: I'll Be Home for Christmas. (1998) **2.30** Film: Snow Dogs. (2002) **4.20** Film: Happy Feet. (2006) **6.20** 5 News Weekend. **6.25** Film: Spider-Man 3. (2007) Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. **9.00** Film: Warrior. (2011) Premiere. Two estranged brothers enter a mixed martial arts tournament, which gradually brings them into conflict with each other. Drama, with Joel Edgerton. **11.45** Treblinka: Inside Hitler's Secret Death Camp. British archaeologists excavate the site of the concentration camp. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.05** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Jack Whitehall Live **10.00** Family Guy **10.25** The Revolution Will Be Televised **10.55** Family Guy **11.20** American Dad! **11.45** American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Rick Stein Tastes the Blues **8.00** Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World **9.00** The Man Who Brought the Blues to Britain: Big Bill Broonzy **10.00** Film: Of Gods and Men (2010) **11.55** Blues America  
**ITV2**  
**3.40** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **4.45** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **6.45** Film: Small Soldiers (1998) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** You've Been Framed! **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Film: State of Play (2009)  
**ITV3**  
**2.30** A Touch of Frost **4.30** Inspector Morse **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Lewis. A college reunion takes a tragic turn when a guest is found murdered. **11.00** Blue Murder  
**ITV4**  
**12.45** Live Darts. **5.00** Police, Camera, Action! **5.30** Storage Wars **6.00** Duck Dynasty **7.00** Live Darts. **11.00** The Power of Darts  
**E4**  
**4.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** Rules of Engagement **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **10.00** Rude Tube: Extreme Rides **11.00** The Inbetweeners **11.40** Drifters  
**Film4**  
**3.05** The Last Mimzy (2007) **4.55** Gallipoli (1981) **7.05** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** Crazy Heart (2009)

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## Film Choices

## MONDAY

Training Day, ITV, 11.10pm

A cop embarks on his first day in narcotics, partnering a seasoned officer whose willingness to flout the rules forces him to question everything he has learnt. As they resort to extreme measures to crack a case, the routine is left battling his conscience in a dangerous situation. Thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke, Scott Glenn and Tom Berenger. (2001)

## TUESDAY

The American President, ITV, 11.35pm

The US president embarks on a relationship with an environmental lobbyist – but his delighted opponents jump at the chance to drag the pair through the gutter press, putting their romance and his career in jeopardy. Rob Reiner's political comedy, starring Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Martin Sheen, Richard Dreyfuss and Michael J Fox. Written by Aaron Sorkin, who would later return to the White House as creator of The West Wing. (1995)



Training Day, Monday, ITV, 11.10pm

## WEDNESDAY

Snatch, Channel 5, 10pm

An unlicensed boxing promoter and his dim-witted sidekick convince an Irish gypsy to step in for their injured fighter, but find themselves drawn into a match-fixing racket. Meanwhile, the loot from a diamond heist goes missing, leading to a bloody conflict between Russian gangsters and a Jewish mob. Guy Ritchie's comedy drama, with Jason Statham, Brad Pitt, Benicio Del Toro, Mike Reid, Jason Flemying, Alan Ford and Vinnie Jones. (2000)

## THURSDAY

Three Wise Women, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A successful doctor is preparing to get married, but does not realise she is settling for the wrong man. At Christmas, she receives a visit from her guardian angel, who tries to stop her making a terrible mistake – with the aid of the medic's younger selves. Fantasy, starring Amy Huberman and Fionnula Flanagan. (2010)

## FRIDAY

The Grudge 2, ITV, 11.10pm

After barely surviving a fire that burned a cursed Tokyo house to the ground, Karen Davis is recovering in hospital. Karen's sister Aubrey travels to Japan to bring her home, but her investigation into the suspicious events leading up to her sibling's injury sets Aubrey on a frantic mission to prevent menacing supernatural beings from reaching the US. Horror sequel, with Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Edison Chen and Arielle Kebbel. (2006)

## Pick of the Week

## Robbie swings back into the nation's hearts

Many Robbie Williams fans have their favourite standout gig, whether it's his 2001 Royal Albert Hall show, in which he belted out classic Swing When You're Winning tracks, or the 2003 Knebworth show, captured on the DVD What We Did Last Summer.

Obviously there's been a lot of water under the bridge since then, with his contribution to Take That's superb Progress tour, and his more recent solo work.

For many, his take on Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr's classics was a career highlight 12 years ago, and on November 8 there was a sense that things had come full circle.

Of course not everyone was able to get to the London Palladium to witness his latest evening of swing music, so Robbie Williams One Night at the Palladium is a chance to see what you missed.

Performing tracks from new album Swings Both Ways, he is joined by special guests Lily Allen and Rufus Wainwright and Muppets Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy.

"Moi is always thrilled to perform at the Palladium, no matter who I have to share the stage with," remarked the porcine superstar. "But being up there with moi's dear friend Robbie Williams and Kermie will make this night even more spectacular!"

Well, quite.

Williams has suffered many highs and lows since he last belted out a load of swing classics for a paying audience.

In 2002, his mammoth £80million contract with EMI was one of the biggest music deals in history.

The album Escapology, co-penned with Guy Chambers, included a couple of crackers in Come Undone and Feel. Both peaked at number four in the UK charts, while the album itself was a huge hit worldwide, topping the charts in more than a dozen countries, including here.

His 2005 album Intensive Care was also a global smash, but a year later many fans were disappointed with his follow-up, Rudebox.

Despite impressive production from the likes of Mark Ronson and the Pet

Shop Boys, it looked like Robbie pre-empted his fate and 'came undone'.

By 2009 he scraped back some credibility with the album Reality Killed the Video Star, a project boosted by the work of super producer Trevor Horn.

Admittedly the track Morning Sun struggled in the UK charts, but Bodies was much stronger, hitting number 2.

In 2010, his long-awaited reunion with Take That saw Williams back on form, both on the album Progress, and their stunning tour, which left each of the five band members a reported £7million better off.

Having healed a much-publicised rift with Gary Barlow, their duet Shame won over Take That fans, while Barlow-penned 2012 track Candy saw Robbie back at the top of the charts for the first time since 2004's Radio.

Now, with old mate Guy Chambers back on board as songwriter, it looks like the 38-year-old has bounced back from the brink once more.

So, if this new century keeps bringing you down, settle back and enjoy as one of Blighty's greatest showmen works his magic once more.



Robbie Williams One Night at the Palladium, Friday, BBC1, 8pm

## Best of the Rest

## MONDAY

A Great British Christmas with Sarah Beeny Channel 4, 8pm

Should Kirstie Allsopp be feeling worried? For the past couple of years, she's normally cropped up on Channel 4 in December with her own festive special. But this year, she's been gazzumped by fellow property expert Sarah Beeny, who is getting in first with her own off-Christmas documentary. Sarah, her artist husband Graham Swift and their four children are exploring how festive celebrations have changed over the past 200 years. They are particularly keen to discover how previous generations would have marked the season in their stately home, Rise Hall in East Yorkshire, which the clan have spent 10 years restoring. However, they'll also be looking further afield for yuletide rituals, as they learn more about the historical context of everything from garlands to cards.

## Ripper Street

BBC1, 9pm

Poor Drake. His work life is beset by violence and the sight of grisly deaths – and now it seems he won't be getting much comfort in his home life. Since Ripper Street returned to our screens, Drake has been happily married to Bella – but a blast from her past is about to turn their world upside down. Meanwhile, Reid asks Jewish mathematician Isaac Bloom for help when it becomes clear that somebody is trying to upset the fragile peace among Whitechapel's diverse communities by burning the local churches and synagogues to the ground. Reid has dealt with many weird occurrences during his police career, but what Bloom tells him

about these attacks would shock even the most hard-bitten and hard-hearted detective...

## TUESDAY

Pilgrimage with Simon Reeve BBC2, 9pm

Having navigated the Equator and the Indian Ocean, surely it was time for Simon Reeve to explore somewhere closer to home. The affable presenter does just that in his new series, which sees him retracing the adventures of our ancestors. The series commences with Reeve embarking on a 500-mile journey from Lindisfarne to Canterbury. From there, he travels to Lincoln and London, where he joins up with Chaucer fans for the last leg, made famous by the Canterbury Tales. Along the way, Reeve uncovers the real reason that many medieval peasants undertook pilgrimages: it was an excuse to leave their working lives behind and see the country – something most of us can appreciate today.

## WEDNESDAY

28 Up South Africa ITV, 10.35pm

Over the years – and there have been quite a few of them – the Up series has made for sensational viewing and been massively influential. Ever since 1964, the documentary, originally a social study, has returned every seven years to focus on a varied group of people. It has been a huge hit with audiences. Tonight, we're

updated on the personal journeys of a group of young people born in South Africa during the apartheid era. The country in the meantime has become fully integrated, and those same children are now 28. We're about to hear how new opportunities have opened up for them as they've journeyed through their 20s, and how they now lead very different lives. Among them, Lizette says her coal-mining town is the worst place on Earth, while Olwethu discusses her marriage, and Willem talks sport now that he's a rugby union international for the Springboks.

## THURSDAY

Keeping Britain Safe 24/7 BBC1, 8.30pm

Most of us go through life without giving much of a second thought to what barriers stand between us and catastrophe at any given moment. This documentary pays tribute to the unsung individuals who keep those barriers in place, through their tireless work – be they the firefighters kept busy on Bonfire Night or the midwives dealing with an autumnal baby boom. Julia Bradbury and Matt Allwright are the presenters championing their causes, and they also turn the spotlight

on railway workers that keep the country moving in the face of those dreaded leaves on the line.

## FRIDAY

Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom BBC2, 9pm

It's safe to say, we're a little bit jealous of wildlife filmmakers Gordon Buchanan and Justine Evans, who are currently enjoying exploring deep into the little-known jungle wilderness of Burma. Still, it might not be quite the same thing, but at least we get to follow them every step of the way with this series. In the second instalment, Gordon and Justine make their way into the mountains of western Burma in search of the sun bear, the Asian golden cat and the clouded leopard. Meanwhile, zoologist Ross Piper and his team continue their mission to form a wildlife survey in the hope that they'll eventually present it to the government of Burma, and undercover filming in a border town leads them to a shocking discovery.

## Live at the Apollo

BBC1, 9.30pm

It's not like 8 Out of 10 Cats star Sean Lock struggles as a comedian, but if the punchlines ever did dry up he could have a career as an impressionist – at least he does if this edition of the stand-up show is anything to go by, which sees him adopt an eerily convincing Bruce Forsythe and a suitably over-the-top Bruno Tonioli. That's before showing off his compering skills by introducing sets by grumpy stand-up Romesh Ranganathan and actor and funnyman Marcus Brigstocke (who proves he actually has a pretty good Columbo up his sleeve).



28 Up South Africa, Wednesday, ITV, 10.35pm

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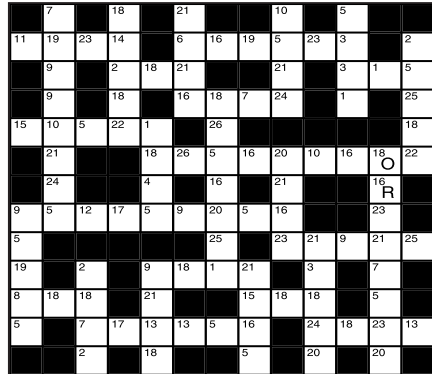
## Puzzler

## Brain Gym

No.249

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	G	V	Y	H	J	W	C	L	B	K	E	A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	I	X	U	Z	Q	O	S	P	R	N	D	F

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

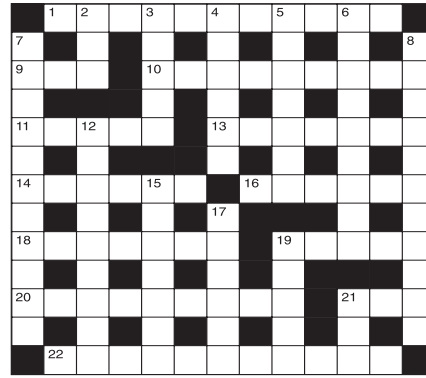
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Natural tendency for the allocation of one's property (11)
9. This makes revolutionary processes easier (3)
10. Hurried back to restrict food supplies - that's the story (9)
11. To cause aversion, make somebody retire (5)
13. Disguised Belgian often seen in Calcutta (7)
14. Scandinavian article served in a dish (6)
16. From the prognosticator a clearly divine revelation (6)
18. Go in search of strong drink, we hear - it provides vegetable food (3-4)
19. The settlement will be to his advantage (5)
20. To bring in a busy worker is of considerable consequence (9)
21. Meadow showing endless foliage (3)
22. He puts the destination on the top covers (4-7)

## Down

- 2 & 15 Dn. Describing the show with badly cast leading actors? (3-7)
3. A list of jurors from Nepal (5)
4. The writer needs a bed in the south-east (6)
5. Coach gives the terrain a different look (7)
6. Few will be involved in this kind of government (9)
7. This couldn't be expected from an enemy vessel! (11)
8. Opposed to a state set-up - make it a free land! (4-7)
12. Ananas - a conifer bearing fruit (9)
15. See 2 Down
17. Make good representative with a distinctive bearing (6)
19. Crowns that are monastically unlocked? (5)
21. Falsely state the position of the golf-ball (3)



## Quick Clues:

## Across

1. Explorers (11)
9. Favourite (3)
10. Respectable (9)
11. Disagreeable (5)
13. Determine (7)
14. Carry to excess (6)
16. Have ambitions (6)
18. Performer (7)
19. Ate dinner (5)
20. Amuse (9)
21. Study (3)
22. Unceremonious (4,3,4)

## Down

2. Suitable (3)
3. Robust (5)
4. Divulge (6)
5. Hates (7)
6. Uprising (9)
7. Dogmatic (11)
8. Eternal (5-6)
12. Watcher (9)
15. Merit (7)
17. Keep (6)
19. Dullard (5)
21. Type of lettuce (3)

## Sudoku

	6			5			7	
		2	8	3	6		9	
8		1		2			5	
1						3		
4			2		3		1	9
		5						8
	3	9		8		2		4
			5	7	9		3	
6						9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	9	6	2	1	5	3	4	8
8	4	9	1	2	3	7	6	5
2	1	7	6	5	4	9	8	3
5	6	3	8	9	7	1	2	4
6	5	1	3	4	2	8	9	7
9	8	4	7	6	1	5	3	2
3	7	2	5	8	9	4	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Flag; 3 Priority; 9 Epigram; 10 Theta; 11 Boiled sweets; 13 Touchy; 15 Salami; 17 Point-to-point; 20 Drive; 21 Article; 22 Linesmen; 23 Ores. Down: 1 Fleabite; 2 Alibi; 4 Remiss; 5 On the warpath; 6 Inertian; 7 Year; 8 Free thinkers; 12 Listless; 14 Utopian; 16 Strafe; 18 Incur; 19 Idol. QUICK - Across: 1 Go by; 3 Prodigal; 9 Dismiss; 10 Surge; 11 Posthumously; 13 Endear; 15 Escape; 17 Contemptible; 20 Ocean; 21 Drought; 22 Steadier; 23 Stay. Down: 1 Godspeed; 2 Basis; 4 Resume; 5 Disquisition; 6 Gorilla; 7 Lees; 8 Disheartened; 12 Recently; 14 Diocese; 16 Smudge; 18 Bight; 19 Toss.



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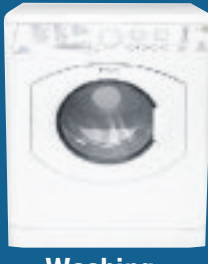
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# Property



## Generously proportioned four-bedroomed house

**ON A prominent corner position, this substantial detached family home in Burton Road, Upper Gornal, Dudley has versatile accommodation including four bedrooms and a possible business premises.**

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents priced £179,950.

One mile from Sedgley centre, it has been recently improved and is well

maintained having gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance hall, sitting room, lounge, spacious bathroom, inner hall, lower level kitchen, dining area and utility.

There are also four first floor bedrooms, a spacious briquette driveway area with plenty of space for parking vehicles including a boat/caravan and a lawned area to the rear.

The sitting room has floor tiling as does the lounge which also has feature fireplace.

The kitchen, dining area and utility all have ceramic tiled flooring and bedrooms one and four have built in wardrobes with mirror fronted doors.

For further information contact Skitts Estate Agents on 01902 596104 or visit [www.skitts.net](http://www.skitts.net)



## Rural semi with views of surrounding countryside

NUMBER 7 Morfe Hall Lane, Envile, near Stourbridge, is a wonderful four-bedroomed home with stunning countryside views and a detached studio.

Well placed for commuting and ideal for lovers of the outdoors with the Envile Golf Club and walks nearby, it is for sale through The

Lee, Shaw Partnership priced at £289,500.

It has a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, shower room, four first floor bedrooms and a rest room with a WC and vanity wash-basin, gravel driveway, garden plus the studio in the garden.

The reception hall has a

large store room and the lounge has a brick recessed fireplace with soft close cream units in the kitchen, solid oak worktops, a Belfast sink, range-style oven, microwave and wine cooler.

The seating area has French doors to the rear garden giving stunning views and the shower room

is stylish having a large cubicle and ladder radiator.

Upstairs, bedroom one has wardrobes and bedroom three has an integrated high bed base with storage below.

For further information contact The Lee, Shaw Partnership on 01384 396066 or visit the website at [www.leeshaw.com](http://www.leeshaw.com)

# Hicks Hadley

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## Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**ROMSLEY, Waverley Crescent £850 pcm - Fees**  
Exceptionally presented & extended 3 bedroom home in a quiet cul-de-sac in the popular village of Romsley. Large Living Room with elegant fire surround featuring a real working fire. Modern fitted kitchen with integral appliances, dining room, study/bedroom 4.3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with shower over 'P' shaped bath. Private rear garden and parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Waxland Road £675 pcm - Fees**  
Located in the centre of Halesowen, is this lovely unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: gas central heating, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, further separate wc, front & rear gardens, garage and driveway parking, within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Lydiate Road £650 pcm - Fees**  
Located in the popular area of Howley Grange, this semi-detached house is ideal for Howley Grange Primary School, briefly featuring: 3 bedrooms, small kitchen, separate utility area, 2 reception rooms, shower room, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway and garage, small rear garden. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Linton Close £595 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
Newly refurbished 3 bedroom semi detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac position close to shops & major bus route having lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., 3 good sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower. Gas central heating, garage and rear garden. A lovely family home. Available late Dec/early Jan 2014. EPC: D



**STOURBRIDGE, Kingsway £595 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
Enjoying a position within this popular address, this notably well arranged 3 bedroom semi detached family home features: 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom with corner bath and separate shower, gas central heating, garage and driveway. Available mid December. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £575 pcm - Fees**  
Wonderfully refurbished and in the centre of Halesowen. We have 2 apartments available and both feature light and airy lounges with large bay windows, 2 double bedrooms, modern kitchen with cooker, 1 bathroom, 1 shower room and a utility room. A must see property to appreciate the spacious accommodation. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Wiltshire Drive £575 pcm - Fees**  
Located on the Homer Hill Estate. A well presented semi-detached home briefly featuring 3 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, spacious lounge, dining room, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, unfurnished. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close £575 pcm - Fees**  
Beautifully presented and in the centre of Halesowen. This lovely apartment is on the ground floor and features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, house bathroom, large open plan lounge/kitchen with integrated appliances, 1 allocated parking space. available 01/12/13. EPC: B



**ROWLEY REGIS, Church Walk £575 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
Newly refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom and terraced house with off road parking for 1 vehicle offers a through lounge, fitted kitchen with breakfast bar, 3 good sized bedrooms, bathroom with shower, gas central heating. Available immediately. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street North £560 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
A superb fully re-furbished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**OLDSWINFORD, Hall Street £550 pcm - Fees**  
A quaint mid-terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, comprising of 1 double bedroom, 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with white goods, downstairs bathroom with shower, spacious lounge, small rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Harcourt Road £550 pcm - Fees**  
Unfurnished 3 bedroom mid-terrace house within walking distance to Old Hill Train Station and local shops. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, large rear garden and off road parking for 2 vehicles. Gas central heating, double glazed throughout. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Road £550 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
A superb fully re-furbished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £525 pcm - Fees**  
NEW  
Situated in this popular residential area, this second floor apartment which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony. Comprising of: 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: C



**BARTLEY GREEN, Woodgate Lane £525 pcm - Fees**  
Attractive & improved traditional cottage style terraced house. Large lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to front & large rear garden. Available immediately. EPC: D



**WORDSLEY, Cooknell Drive £495 pcm - Fees**  
NEW PRICE  
Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Banners Street £495 pcm - Fees**  
A mid terrace property which has been refurbished comprises of 2 double bedrooms, brand new fitted kitchen, 2 reception rooms, white bathroom suite with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, large tiered garden with decking area, on road parking. EPC: E



**OLDSWINFORD, Heath Lane £495 pcm - Fees**  
Ideally located in the centre of Oldswinford for shops, transport links and Mary Stevens Park. This large and spacious end terrace house features 3 good size bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden and on road parking. EPC: TBC



**CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £485 pcm - Fees**  
A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



**NETHERTON, Round Street £475 pcm - Fees**  
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Reddal Hill Road £425 pcm - Fees**  
Modernised to a high standard is this large gas central heated 2 bedroom modernised flat. With your own private entrance leading to a lovely lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, 1 with fitted wardrobes. Lovely shower room. Allocated parking for 1 car. Available immediately. EPC: D



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# DIXONS

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EPC



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Clancey Way, Halesowen



EPC C



Offers Over £190,000

Three storey townhouse comprising four bedrooms, three bathrooms and benefits from off road parking. Halesowen

Stourbridge Road, Dudley



NEW

EPC F

£140,000

A three bedroom link detached property briefly comprising, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and storage garage.

Parkfield Close, Halesowen



EPC C

£130,000

Three bedroom semi detached property with garage, briefly comprising lounge, downstairs WC, kitchen/diner and bathroom. Halesowen

The Broadway, Dudley



new price

EPC G

Offers Over £120,000

A three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising entrance porch, entrance hall, two reception rooms, kitchen and bathroom.

Watsons Green Road, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising extended lounge and kitchen, dining room, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Brookfield Way, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and parking to the side.

Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath



Awaiting  
EPC

£95,000

A traditional end terraced property for sale. The property is situated in a location convenient for local amenities. Halesowen

Ashenhurst Road, Dudley



EPC E

£90,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Sunnybank Road, Dudley



EPC D

£86,950

This three bedroom semi detached property briefly comprises lounge, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden.

Aqua Court, Rowley Regis



EPC B

£75,000

Modern first floor apartment with accommodation comprising of open plan lounge/kitchen with balcony, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen

Copse Road, Dudley



NEW

Awaiting  
EPC

£90,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, shower room, front and rear gardens.

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# Vauxhall's Insignia is now a far more compelling car

**By David Banner**

**VAUXHALL'S Insignia has evolved but to really appreciate the changes, you'll need a version like the Tech Line model we look at here with its sat nav system and Intellilink infotainment screen.**

Medium range family models are very different these days. Want proof? Then just take a seat inside a Vauxhall Insignia. And ideally a Tech Line-specified one equipped with the brand's latest Intellilink infotainment fitted. This not only connects you into the standard sat nav system you get at this level but it also enables you to do everything from Bluetooth-ing your 'phone to accessing a whole series of Vauxhall-sourced apps. The future has truly arrived.

Of course, there's a lot more to this latest Insignia than just a bit of interior hi-tech. Prices are tighter and running costs a great deal lower if you choose one of the latest 2.0 CDTi diesel engines developing either 120 or 140PS. Both these units are available to Tech Line buyers. Let's check this car out.

The Insignia now feels a far more mature car to drive – and all the main powerplants most British customers choose are offered to Tech Line buyers.

Under the skin, over 60% of the chassis componentry is new – but it's not enough to make this into a car you'd really describe as 'rewarding'. What it does do is perfect what

was there in the first place. This Insignia really is now dynamically fit for family and business purposes, with no caveats. True, a Mazda6 or a Mondeo might handle the twisties with a little more élan, but for most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

The 'quietly' bit's important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class. But isn't now. True, there are still quieter black pump buys in this class but at least this car will no longer wake the neighbours when you fire up on a cold morning or tire you in traffic with its constant rumbling thrum.

Visually, there are no sheet metal changes to this improved Insignia. Instead, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range.

Inside, much of the switchgear has been tidied up onto a central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to trip computer read-outs and audio selections, Bluetooth 'phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There's even a touchpad behind the gear-lever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control. It's not the most immediately intuitive of systems to initially get to grips with but if you

struggle a bit with these things, you can download a smartphone handbook app which you point at the switch in question for a tutorial.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you'll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

## Bracket

For Insignia buyers, there's a premium of around £2,650 to go from the entry-level Design trim to the Tech Line spec we're looking at here. That means a price span in the £20,000 to £25,000 bracket and an engine choice that gives you all three of the main 2.0 CDTi diesel units (the 120, 140 and 163PS engines), plus the 140PS 1.4 Turbo. The Tech Line asking price gets you not only satellite navigation and the Intellilink infotainment system but also a range of other added value features. These include 17-inch alloy wheels, auto headlamps and wipers, rear electric windows and an anti-dazzle rear view mirror.

Other standard Insignia features include LED daytime running lights, Bluetooth 'phone compatibility, electronic climate control, a driver's seat with powered height and lumbar adjustment, a trip computer, cruise control and a decent quality stereo system plus USB and aux-in compatibility controllable from the steering wheel. Insignia Tech Line buyers get the choice of a five-door hatch or, for a premium of around £1,700, the versatile Sports Tourer



This Insignia is now dynamically fit for family and business purposes

estate. As for safety, well, there's the usual standard stuff – twin front, side and curtain airbags, plus the usual electronic assistance for brakes, traction and stability control to hopefully ensure you'll never need to use them. It's enough to merit a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

Around 85% of Insignia buyers go for a diesel – and you can see why. Both 120 and 140PS versions of the 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX model return 76.3mpg on the combined cycle and put out just 88g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>, returns that at launch were comfortably class-leading. This gives this car an astonishing potential 1,175 mile range from its 70-litre fuel tank, which means that the average UK driver covering around 8,200 miles a year would only have to fill up with diesel

seven times every twelve months. Or, to put it another way, an Insignia ecoFLEX driver could travel from London to Budapest on one tank of fuel.

In summary then, though this car isn't completely new, it feels that way behind the wheel. Those that are tempted by the shinier prospects of newer rivals will, Vauxhall hopes, be brought back into the Insignia fold by class-leading running costs.

It wasn't long ago that it would have been simply inconceivable for a car of this kind to average over 75mpg and put out less than 100g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>. But that's exactly what the two most popular diesel versions of this model can now achieve. A tech spec then that sums this car up perfectly.

## BUSINESS



Satellite navigation with touch screen • Intellilink Audio • Bluetooth and DMB digital radio • Climate control • 17 inch alloys

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub>. Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5dr Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 163PS Tech Line NAV ecoFLEX Stop/Start with 17" wheels, M6: Urban 52.3 (5.4), Extra-urban 76.3 (3.7), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 114g/km. Lowest: Insignia 5dr Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 120PS Tech Line NAV ecoFLEX Stop/Start with 17" wheels, M6 Urban 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 76.3 (3.7). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 98g/km.

All offers subject to stock availability and terms & conditions. Licensed credit brokers, terms and conditions apply. \*Finance subject to age and status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. †3+35 monthly payments, based on non-maintained contract over 36 months, max. 10,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charges apply if contracted mileage is exceeded. Contract hire by ALD Automotive Ltd trading as Vauxhall Leasing, Oakwood Park, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 3JA. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper. 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit [www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty). Images used for illustration purposes only.



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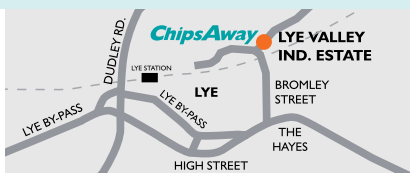
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## Motoring

# Motor dealer finance – a positive way to buy

**FINANCE** provided by motor dealers offers consumers a highly convenient, competitive and rapid method of acquiring their car.

Improved regulation focused on responsible lending practices ensures dealers must be absolutely transparent about the terms and overall costs of any agreement, whilst the simplicity of the application process means it avoids the sometimes invasive approach of customers needing to provide bank statements, expenditure forecasts and other sensitive personal information. Therefore motor dealer finance is very customer friendly.

### Advantages

Recent evidence also highlights customers are currently around twice as likely to be accepted for their finance when compared to a personal loan. In the case of hire purchase, customers also enjoy the advantages of a significantly higher level of consumer protection than they would receive with a personal loan.

Dealer finance can also prove a highly competitive option. A review of current personal loan rates reveals that best in class rates from high street and supermarket lenders range from 6.5 per cent to 24.9 per cent representative APR for a £5000 loan over 36 months. What these do not reveal is the relatively low acceptance rate and the extensive use of 'rate for risk' underwriting; wherein the rate a borrower is offered may be higher than that advertised rate if the customer's credit profile warrants it. It is understood this scenario is a very regular one.

Other finance options such as credit



Improved regulation means dealers must be transparent on the deal

cards have the potential to be significantly more costly, unless the borrower is able to settle their agreement very quickly.

Finance specialist with Motor Market, Dean Bridge, said that with regard to price, it is important to recognise that there is a cost to all dealers and finance providers to offer borrowing facilities.

"For the lender, it is also something that carries both risk and reward. In the case of risk, the country saw this all too obviously through the credit crunch," he said.

"During this period, when other lending was largely curtailed, dealer finance kept lending, enabling con-

sumers to buy the car they wanted for work and social use," he said. "To ensure customers get absolutely best value I would encourage car buyers to research their finance options, including Motor Dealer finance and bearing in mind that personal loan acceptance levels remain depressed and that rate for risk may mean a higher than advertised representative APR."

"I also suggest that buyers investigate the 'total amount payable' to change car on finance. It is certainly possible that a lower interest rate could be offset by a higher car purchase price."

"The bottom line result is however likely to be the same."

## Motor Market

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## Motoring



The new Nissan Qashqai, on sale in January next year, has a choice of two petrol and two diesel engines

# Four grades all packed with high levels of kit

**FOLLOWING** its recent glitzy London unveiling, Nissan has now released pricing and specification details for its hotly anticipated latest generation Qashqai.

When the mid-size SUV goes on sale in January prices will start from £17,595 and rise to £27,845, and buyers will have a choice of four trim levels.

Nissan's engineers have also done much to improve the car's green credentials, with the result being an engine line-up spanning the 99g/km to 132g/km CO2 range.

Entry level Visia cars benefit from a generous amount of kit, including auto air-conditioning, hill start assist, cruise control and a large colour infotainment screen.

Acenta-badged models gain the likes of dual-zone air-con, leather for the steering wheel and gear lever, larger alloy wheels and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

Both the Visia and Acenta models come with the option of a Smart Vision Pack (£450) that adds Nissan's advanced Safety Shield system among other driver aids. Designed to enhance the safety of occupants, the pack incorporates Front Collision Avoidance and Traffic Sign Recognition.

Moving up to the Acenta Premium grade adds digital radio, a rear view parking camera and sensors, a panoramic sunroof, keyless ignition and lane departure warning.

The flagship Tekna models add all-round parking sensors, part leather seats, LED headlights, a seven-inch infotainment screen and 19-inch alloys.

A pair of petrol and diesel engines will be available from launch, all boasting fuel-saving stop-start technology. Diesel fans can choose between a 109bhp 1.5 unit and a 128bhp 1.6 motor. Petrol options initially run to a 1.2 113bhp motor and more powerful 148bhp 1.6 unit.

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub>. VAUXHALL Meriva Active 1.4i 16V 100PS, M5: Urban 36.2 (7.8), Extra-urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 46.3 (6.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 143g/km.**

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\*Model shown is a Trax 1.6 LT priced at £17,495 OTR. Vehicle shown features metallic paint at an extra cost of £445. Price correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Trax Range: Urban 34.4 (8.2) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 50.4 (5.6) – 70.6 (4.0), Combined 43.4 (6.5) – 62.7 (4.5) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 153 – 120g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.



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Premium Products Expertly Fitted  
With Full Manufacture Guarantee.

For A Free Quote call  
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no job too big or too small

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Fully insured. Portfolio available.

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### Property Maintenance

EST. OVER 20 YEARS

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### K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs

to your home and garden

Also interior and exterior

decorating

Local Friendly Service

0121 532 4861

No Job Too Small

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# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Index

- 1 Family
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- 4 Pets & Animals
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- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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Simply press the free ad icon.  
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.  
Private advertisers only.

## lost & found

LOST - Pink Cockatoo, heading towards Moseley Road.  
Call 07799 641419.

## 1 Family

### consoles, games & accessories

X-BOX ONE, day one console inc Forza 5, new sealed, available launch day, £500 ono. 07960 280154

### education & tuition

SMART TUITION SERVICES  
Tuition for 11+ and key stage 3/4 maths & science. £12/ hour, tutors CRB checked. 07816 825604.

### elderly & disabled

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ELL MOBILITY scooter, 4 wheels, never been used, 10 miles range, £350. Please call 01902 835837.

FOOT ABLE - Struggling to reach your toe nails? Call for a home visit, 07846 326801 - NHS reg.

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MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

ROD MOBILITY SCOOTER very good condition, 3 wheeler Shopridr, folds for car, £295. Telephone 01902 653337.

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New & Reconditioned

Sales, Service & Repairs

Dudley DY1 2LW

Dudley 01384356356

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £500. Plus New Lifts. 01952 405397/07897 273617

## 2 Leisure Time

### bikes

CYCLOMATIC ELECTRIC mountain cycle, shimano gears, as new, used once, £385. 01902 791367.

### car boot sales

Best Every Saturday Boot Sale  
10am - 1pm till Christmas  
A454 By Whetall Pubs, between W'ton & Bridgnorth, WY15 5NR  
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07890 287041

### weddings

### bridal clothing alterations

**Bridal/Evening Wear**  
**20% DISCOUNT**  
OFF WITH THIS ADVERT  
(Offer ends Decembr 1st)  
Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat  
9.30am - 4.00pm  
30 High St, Halesowen, B63 3BB  
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## caravans / motorhomes

**HOLIDAY CARAVAN**  
Cosalt Torbay - 11 months holiday park, DG, GCH, walking distance into Stourport on Severn.  
£10,500.  
Call for full details: 07810 044813 or 07801 530894.

**STERLING EUROPA 620**  
Twin axle, 2008, fixed bed, end bathroom, 4 berth, microwave, blow heating. Immaculate condition.  
£9,000, o.n.o.  
Telephone 07710 671382.



**VAUXHALL MOVANO CAMPERVAN**  
1999, 2 berth, 2.499cc, diesel, 61,600 miles. Professional, van conversion by Arrow Homes. Awning, shower, gas cooker & hob, multi-fuel fridge, TV aerial, rear camera, 4 good tyres + spare. Fiamma 2-bike rack (as new). Service history, taxed (1.14), Mot (7.14).  
£9,950 ono. 01588 680250

## LOOK

**WILLERBY RIO GOLD**  
2012 model, 28 x 12ft, 2 bed, DG, CH, galvanised chassis and platform, connected to services, TV aerial fitted, integral fridge freezer, external meter reader, real quality caravan in excellent condition, sited at Sand Bay, coastal Somerset Village, Family owned and dog friendly park by the sea.  
Genuine sale.  
Priced to sell £22,485.  
07801 734823, 01934 412680.

## caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted  
Any Age or Condition  
**\*CASH WAITING\***  
Immediate collection  
Call Bill on 07760 344 750

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FOR GIGGING CLASSIC ROCK BAND BASED IN BIRMINGHAM.  
Please email details of your experience and equipment to [johnclassicrock123@gmail.com](mailto:johnclassicrock123@gmail.com).  
Reliable transport essential.

## furniture

**MOORCROFT LAMPS** Pair Mckintosh L122 lamps with rectangular shades. 2nds. £320 07751 026896

## what's on

## taxi's

**5 STAR TAXIS** Single fare over the festive season. You Drink We Drive. 01384 232323 / 252525

## bridal clothing alterations

**ITALIAN STYLE** dining table and 6 chairs, matching display cabinet, £250 ono. Also child's high chair £20. 01384 634866.

**KING SIZE** bed, as new, 2 drawers. £100. Single bed (Electric Recliner) £75 ono. 07711 569489.

**SUITE 3&2** seater settees, inc 1 chair, light lilac fabric, slight pattern, £250. 07824 557198

**HOTPOINT FRIDGE** freezer, £50. Zanussi washing machine, £50, excellent condition 01384 320030.

## markets

**The Famous BILSTON SUNDAY MARKET & CAR BOOT**  
52 WEEKS A YEAR, WHATEVER THE WEATHER!  
OVER 150 SHELTERED STALLS  
£15 for 1 / £20 for 2 / £25 for 3  
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## sports & leisure

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## mind, body & soul

**BEAUTY THERAPY** couch, white leatherette with wooden frame, extra wide, also slaps, carry case, as new, £95. 01384 897022.

## hair & beauty

**BAI BAROQUE** Glass front gas fire c/w hearth. £50. o.n.o. Glass TV stand. £25. o.n.o. 01902 258337.

## holiday feature

**3 Bed Caravan For Sale**  
at Wide Horizons Holiday Park  
£5995



Call for more details: 07813 121678

## 3 Home & Services

## carpets & furnishings

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## BFC FURNITURE

**BURNT TREE, DUDLEY New Factory Outlet**  
Save 50% on store prices on Beds complete divans from £49, ortho mats from £69, memory foam mats £89, metal fashion beds frames £39, ottoman and leather sleigh beds, over 1000 mattresses, wing chairs £119, recliner chairs £199, massage and power recliners from £299, complete suites from £299.  
Save 50% on all leather corner units - normally £489 half price £245.  
3 seater wendford fabric sofas - normally £399 clearance £149, Chairs £49. Recliners leather £199. Beds from £49. Mattresses from just £29. Sink beds £39.  
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BFC, Unit 9, Conegre Rd, Burnt Tree, Dudley DY4 8XP A461  
over road from new Tesco. 100 mtrs past Toys R Us  
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**CIGARETTE CARDS**  
Plus bubblegum and football cards such as A&BC, Barratt etc. Also comics and annuals required. Beano, Dandy, Marvel and other interesting old comics. Pre 1970 please. Will collect. Good cash prices paid for full collections. Text message to 07769 255027 or call.  
01952 253266

**TRAILER WANTED** fully galvanised, factory made, Erde or similar. 07752 805267.

**WANTED TRAILER** Galvanised, Erde/Dakara, or similar 07752 805267.

## kitchens & bathrooms

**BRITONY 11T** multi point water heater, as new, £75. 01384 241689. 07731 792832.

## t.v. / home entertainment

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## AERIAL & TV SPECIALISTS

Free call out & estimates on any TV Plasma, LCD, Projection repairs. All areas covered 8 till late. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall mounts & TV setups.  
**07850 330251**

## household appliances

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## specialists at your service

### aerials

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**  
1 aerial into 2 rooms  
**£85**  
1 aerial into 4 rooms  
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All work guaranteed  
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01384 429166  
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07833 738857

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01384 261236 or 07973 664738

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Carpets dry in 30 minutes.  
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- Fires
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- Gas Leaks Traced

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## plans prepared

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FREE quotes / 35 years experience. Call 0121 6790473 / 07961 833738

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All general plumbing work undertaken. No job too small! Reliable and experienced plumber, free quotes  
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Single Items to Full Removals.  
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Local House Clearances  
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Local Careful Firm  
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or 07749 941319

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**CALL PETE - A MAN WITH A VAN.** Removals, clearances. Items large or small. Call: 01902 741546, 07817 679360 or 01384 469955.

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Fast and Reliable service  
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**4**

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check if horses have the required  
Passport information.

**guns & dogs**

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Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and  
using guns.

**pets corner**

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some simple guidelines you can  
follow to ensure that you are not  
purchasing from a Puppy  
Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with its  
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any  
KC documentation, if pedigree.  
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Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
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liability should readers  
purchase from this kind of  
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dad can be seen, £850 each.  
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months old, £500.  
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**5**

**Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

READERS are recommended to  
take appropriate professional  
advice before entering any obli-  
gations.

**6**

**Property**

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offence under the Accommodation  
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to charge a fee simply for the regis-  
tration of your requirements and/or  
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DSS, £400 pcm. 07454 015789.

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spacious fitted kitchen, off road  
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**THREE BED house** Silverend area  
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07949 447368.

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**LOOK**

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On select country park in  
Coven.

Nice gardens, GCH, DG.  
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views.

Self retired / retired only.  
£64,000.  
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**LOOK**

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**BROOKSIDE, TELFORD.**  
Recently refurbished to a high  
standard, 3 bed town house in  
quiet area, not overlooked at  
the back, quiet frontage in a row  
of privately owned houses.

New boiler and radiators, new  
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carpets throughout.

Ready to move in or let at 8%  
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**overseas property**

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ments.

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**7**

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CRB checked / References.  
Seeks employment in Totten-  
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Telephone 01902 741189

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\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.  
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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

## ClassifiedAds

### 9 Local Information

#### public & legal notices

Halesowen Town Ltd is applying for the Grant of a Premises Licence for Halesowen Town Football Club, Old Hawne Lane, Halesowen B63 3ST

The Licence if granted is to allow the following activities to take place: The sale of alcohol on and off the premises, the provision of regulated entertainment. The provision of facilities for regulated entertainment to include live and recorded music Monday to Thursday 10:00 hrs-24:00 hrs Friday and Saturday 10:00 hrs-01:00 hrs Sunday 10:00 hrs-24:00 hrs Bank Holidays 10:00hrs-01:00 hrs New Years Eve 10:00hrs-02:00

Any person wishing to make representations in relation to this application may do so by writing to: The Licensing Section, Dudley MBC, 5 Ednam Road, Dudley DY1 1HL. Representation may be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this notice.

A copy of the above Licence application can be viewed at: The Licensing Section, Dudley MBC, 5 Ednam Road, Dudley DY1 1HL 09:00 hrs-16:30 hrs Monday to Friday. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for making a false statement is a Level 5 fine on the standard scale. Dated November 16, 2013.

#### SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### NOTICE OF CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO PROPOSED SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES IN THRONE ROAD (IN PART), ROWLEY REGIS

1. Notice is hereby given that the Borough Council of Sandwell proposes under Section 90A of the Highways Act 1980, to construct speed cushions at the locations specified in the Schedule to this Notice for the purpose of reducing the speed of vehicles.
2. A copy of the map showing the location of the proposed speed cushions may be inspected at the offices of the Area Director Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE during normal working hours.
3. Any person wishing to object to the proposal should write to Mr Irfan Choudry, Service Manager – Highways, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE or email [highways@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:highways@sandwell.gov.uk) stating the grounds of their objection by no later than 20th December 2013.

#### SCHEDULE Schedule of Speed Cushions

Ref No.	Road	Location	Quantity	Width (m)	Length (m)	Height (mm)
TC01	Throne Road	Outside No. 259/260	2	1.80	3.00	60
TC02	Throne Road	Outside No. 31	3	1.80	3.00	60
TC03	Throne Road	Outside No. 25	3	1.80	3.00	60
TC04	Throne Road	Outside No. 19/20	2	1.80	3.00	60
TC05	Throne Road	Outside No. 288	3	1.80	3.00	60

Dated this 28th Day of November 2013  
S HANDLEY, Area Director Street Scene

#### LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email [marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk) (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

### 10 Personals

#### general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

#### personal

**ATTRACTIVE GENUINE**  
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Young 60, trusting, smoker, car owner, wishes to meet lady, 40's to 50's for friendship. Walsall or Cannock areas.  
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**LONELY THIS CHRISTMAS?**  
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**MATURE MALE**  
Seeks other mature Males for fun and friendship.  
Wolves area.  
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**SINGLE DAD**  
kind, caring and considerate, GSOH, likes most things in life, looking for a lady for friendship, possibly leading to LTR. All replies answered.  
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I am looking for hopefully a long term relationship if we are compatible, as long as you are affectionate, thoughtful and trustworthy like me and of similar age or younger.  
I am a 60 year old guy, young at heart.  
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## Whittaker books his place in the final

BENJAMIN WHITTAKER convincingly made it to the final of the National Ambition Boxing Championship with a unanimous points victory on Sunday.

The Wodensborough ABC fighter comfortably saw off Red Johnson, from Aspire ABC in Sheffield, at the Sherburn Leisure Centre in County Durham.

Whittaker didn't always take the fight to his opponent in their Class A (boxers born in 1997 - 66kg) semi-final as he waited to pick his punches. The Black Country combatant threw long shots and boxed well at middle range, while displaying an excellent array of shots on the back-foot under pressure.

It negated Johnson's attacks and left him wide open to the counter punches, ensuring Whittaker carried favour with the judges and the result wasn't in doubt.

Whittaker will now face the winner of the southern semi-final between Les Stevens and Karim Bassi at the Rainton Meadows Arena in Durham on December 5.

Wodensborough ABC stage their next club show at the Charlemont Bowling Club in West Bromwich on December 13.

For tickets, call 07966 279 332.

## 'Train' is derailed in the last leg

WEDNESBURY'S Matthew Dicken and West Bromwich-born Steve Farmer competed in the final PDC Players Championship events of the year at the Barnsley Metrodome.

Dicken went out in the first round of both tournaments, losing 6-4 to fellow West Midlander Nick Fullwell on Saturday before winning just a leg in a 6-1 loss to Tony West.

Farmer also fell at the first hurdle on Saturday, 6-4 to Dan Russell, before bouncing back to beat Antonio Alcinas 6-2.

A second round last leg defeat to Andy Smith, 6-5, put him out.

'The Train' finished 117th in the Pro Tour Order of Merit with winnings of £2,300, while Dicken was 206th with £250.

# Injury-hit Hales fall down the Street

## Old Hales 14 Broadstreet 20

A LARGE crowd and bitterly cold day saw Hales first team once again hit by last-minute injuries to player coach Mark Evans and flanker Dan Young.

Early exchanges in this top of the table clash were not for the faint-hearted as both sides fought for advantage.

The Broadstreet pack were massive and well-drilled, Hales matched them early on but later the visitors were better drilled in lineouts, rucks and mauls.

Hales regularly put their backs in positions to score but the final

pass was not accurate enough.

Centres, Carl and Andy Robinson supported by wings Oxford and Smith looked dangerous early on and always looked as if they would break the visitor's defence.

One such move saw excellent passing only for the final pass to be intercepted by Broadstreet and a chase the whole length of the pitch which Hales sopped short of the line.

A penalty to the visitors followed for a 0-3 lead.

The Broadstreet pack then began to dominate making hard yards using their large forward

## Rugby

power. Hales fought back, Pete Fitzgerald pinching a ball in the loose to feed the backs including Luke Smith who beat a man and passed to full back Chris Hooper who raced for a try.

Hooper converted to lead 7-3. Broadstreet again used forward power to force a scrum close to Hales line which they drove over for a pushover try, converted 7-10 at half time.

The second half was much the same with the visitor's pack in the

ascendency, not pretty but effective, another penalty for Hales infringement converted 7-13.

Hales again worked hard in the loose to win a ball and fed the backs, Joe Oxford made excellent ground on the wing to feed the ever present Hooper to score his second try which he converted to take the lead 14-13.

It was a game of Broadstreet forward power against the stronger backs of the home side, with both sides looking capable of scoring.

It was again the Broadstreet pack, another five metre scrum,

another pushover try which was converted for the win.

## Old Hales 2nds 32 Sutton 24

Old Halesonians forwards started strongly against Sutton and fed the backs for Tom Harris to score an unconverted try for the lead.

Sutton then won a penalty in front of the posts to make.

With Old Hales forwards taking command Richard Topping drove over for another unconverted try, however, Hales were taken unawares by a quick response from Sutton who scored a converted try, making it 10 all at half time.

## Baggies' draw will feel like a defeat

### Albion 2 Villa 2

THIS was a draw which felt like a defeat for Albion but a victory for Villa.

From the perilous position of a 2-0 deficit inside a dozen minutes dominated by brilliant finishing from Shane Long, Villa clawed their way back.

It was an escape Albion probably facilitated by spurning opportunities to finish off their closest neighbours.

In the inquest head coach Steve Clarke will conduct, the two glaring openings which escaped Stephane Sessegnon will assume particular anguish.

But whatever reservations persist about Paul Lambert's redesign of Villa, the team's willing spirit is as undeniable as the threat they can pose when Christian Benteke, Gabby Agbon-lahor and Andreas Weimann come together.

### Outstanding

Karim El Ahmadi and Ashley Westwood duly provided the goals that cancelled out Long's outstanding couplet.

Lambert opted for a three-man back line and flooded midfield but it was pulled apart by the rampaging Long and Albion's ability to pick out the Irishman from deep.

Long's first goal, in the fourth minute, saw him split Nathan Baker and Ciaran Clark. One more touch set him up for a left-foot shot drilled beyond Brad Guzan - The Hawthorns will be a fortunate venue if it sees a more sublime piece of finishing this season.

Not that Long's second was too shabby. A woeful mishit pass by Leandro Bacuna provided the service, but the Ireland international unfurled a beautifully-judged chip.

That Bacuna error was symptomatic of Villa's defending.

Before they reached the safety of the half-time interval, they were fortunate their opponents were not out of sight.

In the second half Amalfitano switched off for a second so that when a Bacuna cross bounced off Claudio Jacob in the 67th minute, El Ahmadi pounced to score.

Better was to follow for Villa when Westwood moved on to a weak clearance from Goran Popov and struck a beauty from 20 yards, his first goal for the club, to complete the comeback.

# It's seventh heaven in Yeltz women goal-fest

## Halesowen 7 Attleborough 0

HALESOWEN faced a strong Attleborough side where the Royal Blues were visiting the pink team.

The Yeltz side pressed from the off and attacked the visiting team, Rachel Letford scored on the 11th minute helped along with some good skills from team mate Haylet Chatwin.

However, Halesowen squandered several opportunities to increase the lead early in the game both as a result of poor finishing and the intervention of the crossbar. The two saved the visitors from being overwhelmed.

Chatwin was soon involved again with some good work when she found Katie Moore unmarked and with the simplest of tap-ins increased the lead for Halesowen.

With the half-time break the undefeated Halesowen team were again given instructions to keep the pressure on to keep on with what they were already doing.

With the Yeltz strong midfield of Sarah Hammill and Tracey Haycock dominating the game in the middle of the pitch the home side were well in control.

Early on in the second half Letford was brought down in the area and a penalty was awarded.

This was the cue for where Sian Whithall to step up and convert the foul into a goal.

Within six minutes Letford got her brace with a low powerful drive which found the net.

Then what followed was surely the goal of the game when right back Sophie

## Football

Richards came surging forward to receive the ball and with a powerful strike the defender saw her shot loop over the keeper and into the net.

Chatwin then decided it was her turn to become goal scorer from a perfect pass from Letford.

On 85 minutes Chatwin made it seven from a Chloe Harris corner.

The final score brought another win and another clean sheet for the Yeltz crew.

Manager Scott McKee said: "The strikers will get the rewards but the Yeltz defence and midfield were fantastic, very strong against a good tough Attleborough side."

"The team performance was excellent and fair play to the squad they all worked hard and got the result they deserved."

This week Halesowen play the Birmingham Medics at Bournville.

## Line is drawn under Tivi run of winning games

### Coleshill Town FC 1 Tivdale FC 1

THE amazing run of 13 consecutive Tivdale league wins may have ended with a draw at Colehill Town, but their unbeaten run remains and they stay the team everyone wants to beat.

The visitors shaded the early play but were unable to convert the chances they created into goals. At the other end of the pitch Colehill's only chances after the goal came courtesy of a couple of Dean Rathbone free-kicks that did not trouble Tivdale keeper Charles Price.

It was Colehill that opened the scoring with forward Matt Brown making the most of some unusual indecision in the Tivdale defence and fired home on 25 minutes.

Tivdale's positive start to the second period was rewarded on 51 minutes when a Michael Wardle effort was parried away by home keeper Paul Hathaway but fell straight to Nathan Waite whose shot back across the keeper went in via the far post.

Tivdale then looked to seize the chance to extend their winning run and piled on the pressure. However, it just felt a win was not meant to be as chance after chance went begging.

In the end Tivdale were never able to match the performance of a week earlier at Quorn and earned their first draw of the season in any competition.

**Tivdale 2 AFC Wulfrunians 1**  
After losing their perfect start with the draw at Colehill, Tivdale were back to winning ways with this victory against AFC Wulfrunians.

But Tivdale can look back on a fortunate penalty decision that aided Tuesday night's win.



Nathan Waite scores for Tivdale at Colehill as the winning run ends

Once again Tivdale started the game with their normal high tempo and it paid off with a goal after just two minutes. Chris Fields won the ball and played it between the central defenders for Nathan Waite to run around Wulfs' keeper Danny Tipton and roll the ball into an empty net.

On the hour Danny Dubidat, making his full debut, fell in the box as Wulfs' Dave Asbury eased him off the ball. A penalty was the result and Mitchell Plows converted from the spot.

Wulfs did pull one back through Asbury on 80 minutes, but Tivdale held on.



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# SPORT

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## Waite-ing game

Tividale marksman is on the goals trail

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## Seventh heaven

Yeltz women in the pink with big home victory

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## Pledge by club as Luty leaves

BIRMINGHAM speedway have pledged a long-term future despite the resignation of one of their promoters.

Chris Luty, citing heavy commitments elsewhere, resigned as a director and reluctantly severed all ties with the club.

Directors discussed various options and it was decided that Alan Phillips would continue as owner and promoter with the support of Graham Drury, who will take over the day-to-day running.

The Brummies enjoyed a stellar season on track this year, reaching the Elite League play-off final before going down against Poole.

The club thanked Black Country Training Group for a "six-figure investment" over the last two years. BCTG is to continue as a club sponsor in 2014.

The Brummies also thanked fans, sponsors and the supporters club.

"This is a new era for the Brummies," said the club in a statement. "There is a long-term plan in place to build on the success of last season."

The Brummies have offered a "full and unreserved apology" to AP Media's Andy Povey over the suspension of the club's website. The Perry Barr outfit issued a highly-critical press release after the site failed.

## Brawl brings end to game

Wednesfield 0  
Bustleholme 0

THIS West Midlands League Premier Division match was abandoned following a massive brawl involving players from both sides.

Bustleholme's Jermaine McFarlane and Wednesfield's Lee Butler and skipper Danny Carter were sent off for violent conduct as the match came to a halt in the 38th minute. Butler was reported to have suffered a broken nose.

Carter, who was in the thick of the brawl, was adjudged to have raised his arms.

McFarlane refused to leave the dugout for a while before being escorted from the pitch. Butler returned to the pitch in an attempt to explain to the referee, but was hauled off by his teammates. Referee Mr D Hill abandoned the game, saying it was not safe to continue.

# Fast-pace play puts Hales on back foot

**Bridgnorth 3 Old Halesonians 0**  
OLD HALESONIANS men's hockey firsts were taught a cruel lesson in Midlands One as they lost at Bridgnorth.

Chasing a fifth win of the season, Hales travelled to Bridgnorth in good spirits but soon found themselves on the back foot. Bridgnorth stretched the Hales defence, and the visitors were unable to react to their fast-paced style of play.

In comparison, Hales were sluggish and struggled to get into the game, resorting to a long ball game which was ineffective. With the attackers getting frustrated, it wasn't long before Bridgnorth opened the scoring

## Hockey

when they were awarded a penalty flick. Steven Charlton was sent the wrong way, and Bridgnorth were 1-0 up. Bridgnorth had the chance to double their lead, but a goal line clearance from Ben Hughes kept the deficit down.

Before the break, frustration set in, and Paul Harrold was sin-binned, after receiving a yellow card for his reaction to a tackle. Bridgnorth were also reduced to 10 men, but were able to double their lead from a penalty corner. Hales went into the second half with

a more positive approach, and gave a much-improved performance.

However, the Bridgnorth keeper kept the home side in the game as he thwarted every attack from the Halesowen side.

As Hales pushed forward, Bridgnorth struck on the break and won another penalty corner. A well-worked routine saw the hosts get their third of the match and put the game beyond sight.

Old Hales were disadvantaged in numbers again in the second half, when Ben Hughes was yellow-carded for a mistimed challenge. Hales did attempt a comeback, with Tom Durnford striking the post from a

penalty corner in the dying minutes, but it was too little too late as Bridgnorth held out for a comfortable win.

Despite the improved second-half performance, Hales will be disappointed that they lacked their usual controlling passing style of play, and started the game poorly.

On Saturday, Hales host bottom of the league Wolverhampton, who are still to register their first point this season.

**Results:** OHHC Ladies 1sts v Barford Tigers, postponed (frozen pitch); OHHC 2nds 1 Kings Heath 2; OHHC Ladies 2nds v Worcester postponed (frozen pitch); Telford 3 OHHC 3rds 2; OHHC 4ths 2 Sutton 1; Stratford 0 OHHC 5ths 1.

## Baggies kids win a thriller

**Rushall Olympic 5 West Bromwich Albion 6**  
(aet, full-time score 4-4)  
ALBION'S youngsters broke Rushall Olympic hearts with two extra-time goals in the Birmingham Senior Cup.

Pics had fought back from 4-0 down after 31 minutes to take the tie into extra-time.

They then grabbed the lead before goals by Alex Jones and Mani O'Sullivan – completing a hat-trick – sent the Baggies' boys into the quarter-finals.

Albion made a storming start with Aaron Birch netting after four minutes.

Eleven minutes later O'Sullivan swept home his first goal and Kemar Roofe soon made it three.

O'Sullivan grabbed his second just before the half-hour, but five minutes later Ahmed Obeng picked up a poor back-pass and fired home before adding another on the stroke of half-time.

Obeng then sent over a fine cross for former Blues striker Dele Adebola to power in a header. Adebola in turn set up Obeng on 75 minutes for his treble.

Jack Duggan lashed home to put the Pics ahead, but Jones and O'Sullivan won it for the young Baggies.

## Dan the man as Town romp it

**Tipton Town 4 Heather St Johns 0**  
A SUPER hat-trick by Tipton Town top scorer Danny Ashton got his side back on the winning trail against Heather St Johns.

Ashton scored twice before Ben Hadley netted.

Ashton wrapped up his hat-trick on 63 minutes with a superb bicycle kick from six yards.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettle, Telford, Thursday, November 28, 2013.

# LATE COLLAPSE SO COSTLY FOR YELTZ

**Halesowen 1 Scarborough 3**  
**HALESOWEN fell at the last hurdle with a disappointing 3-1 defeat to Scarborough, after conceding two late goals.**

Halesowen had a chance early on to take the lead as Avun Jephcott found plenty of space in the Boro penalty box and hit a curling shot which flew just wide of the visitors' left-hand post.

Aaron Griffiths managed to skip past the Scarborough defence and ran all the way up to goal to hit a shot that just went inches wide of the goal.

Asa Charlton nearly got himself on the scoresheet as he found space on the edge of the box and he hit a shot that just went wide of the right hand post.

Iyseden Christie managed to break through the Boro' defence once again as he ran onto a through ball from Avun Jephcott but he knocked the ball too far and Jason White was easily able to grab the ball from his feet.

## Knocked

Christie was gifted another chance in front of goal, but his shot bounced off one of the defenders and wide of the goal.

However, Christie redeemed himself five minutes later.

He was taken down in the Boro penalty box, but stood up to take the penalty and sent it flying past former Mansfield team-mate Jason White into the bottom right corner of the net.

The strike gave Yeltz a well-deserved lead.

The Boro defence fell apart again as Avun Jephcott was able to run through and he hit a shot at goal

## Football

which forced a great save from Jason White to deny Jephcott.

The second half kicked off with Halesowen claiming the first chance of the game as Christie slotted the ball into the box for Tom Tonks, but the visitors averted the danger.

Scarborough then got themselves an equaliser as Peter Davison was gifted too much space in the Yeltz penalty area and was able to turn and hit a shot at goal that rolled under Sargeant and into the net.

Yeltz collapsed in the final stages of the game.

Scarborough scored again as Bryan Hughes' free-kick bounced towards and went into the net as Matt Sargeant failed to gather the ball.

After 70 minutes of holding their position, the Yeltz had conceded two goals in three minutes.

Worse was to come for Halesowen as they gave away a penalty just two minutes later.

Sargeant brought down Ryan Blott in the area and the Scarborough man dusted himself down to slot home the spot-kick.

## It's the Long game in superb Hawthorns derby



Albion striker Shane Long accepts the plaudits of the Hawthorns faithful after bagging his second goal in 11 minutes against Villa. But the derby finished all square when the visitors hit back to draw 2-2. Report – Page 39

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